FRIDAY
April 10, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 85

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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MANIPUR VIOLENCE

NIA likely to probe killing of 2 children

NEWS » PAGE 12

PARLEY

Have elections in India become plutocratic?

The role of money in polls under scrutiny

OPINION » PAGE 11

END OF AN ERA

Former Test cricketer Gopinath passes away

SPORT » PAGE 17

Record turnout in Puducherry, Assam; Kerala near all-time high

- Incumbents express confidence after increased voter turnout
- 'Crucial' polls will provide a bigger mandate, says Kerala Chief Minister
- Assam CM hails 'historic' turnout as many polling booths cross 95%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

There was record poll participation in the Assembly elections on Thursday, with the highest-ever voter turnout of 85.91% in Assam and 89.87% in Puducherry, crossing the previous highs of 84.67% for the State in 2016, and 86.19% for the Union Territory in 2011.

Kerala also saw a high voter turnout of 78.27%, with data still coming in and poll officials saying the final figure could even cross the record of 80.54% registered in 1987.

There were 300 Assembly constituencies at stake in Thursday's polling, including 296 seats in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry with a total electorate of over 5.31 crore who have all been vetted through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the special revision in Assam.

Bypolls were also held to four seats in Karnataka, Nagaland, and Tripura. Counting of votes for all seats will take place on May 4. The bypolls held in Karnataka's Bagalkot and Davanagere-South saw a voter turnout of 68.67% and 68.43% respectively. In Nagaland's Koridang seat, 82.21% of the electorate cast their ballot, while 80.04% of electors voted in Tripura's Dharmanagar constituency.

Making it count

Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry marked higher turnouts than in previous polls; this comes against the backdrop of the SIR (special revision in Assam) leading to deletion of names from voter rolls

Wedding vote: A newly wed couple after voting at a polling booth in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Kerala (140 seats)	
Voter turnout	**78.27%**
2021 turnout	74.06%
Puducherry (30 seats)	
Voter turnout	**89.87%**
2021 turnout	83.28%
Assam (126 seats)	
Voter turnout	**85.91%**
2021 turnout	82.04%

PROVISIONAL TURNOUT AS OF FRIDAY 12:30 A.M.

Confident sides

Describing the election as crucial for Kerala's future, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed confidence of victory by a bigger margin for the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led alliance.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, seeking a third straight term for the BJP-led NDA, hailed the "historic" turnout, as voter participation crossed 95% in many polling booths.

In Puducherry, where polling remained peaceful barring minor incidents, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy said the high voter turnout reflected a strong resolve to re-elect his government, while the Congress president of the U.T., V. Vaithilingam, said the turnout was because of a strong mood for change.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12
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Polling in byelections peaceful

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Polling for the fiercely-fought byelections to Davangere South and Bagalkot passed off peacefully on Thursday, though with a dip in polling percentages compared to the 2023 Assembly elections, as per the preliminary data before reconciliation that will be done on Friday.

Bagalkot recorded a polling percentage of 68.73% and Davangere South recorded 68.55%. In the 2023 Assembly election, Bagalkot had recorded 69.39% and Davangere South 69.48%. Polling was by and large peaceful but for a few skirmishes.

The Congress faces the challenge of retaining both the seats, while the BJP hopes to deliver a setback to the ruling party.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8
METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Iran ceasefire teeters over disputes on Lebanon, Hormuz

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
DUBAI/ISLAMABAD

The tentative ceasefire in the Iran war staggered on Thursday under the weight of Israel's intense bombardment of Lebanon, Tehran's continued chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, and uncertainty over whether negotiators can find common ground on a range of other differences.

Hours after the ceasefire was announced on Wednesday, Israel pounded Beirut with air strikes. Lebanon's Health Ministry said that the strikes killed more than 300 people.

Israel's strikes "signal deception and non-compliance" and render negotiations "meaningless", Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said. "Our hands remain on the trigger, " he added.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Lebanon was a key part of the two-week ceasefire. "Lebanon and the entire Resistance Axis as Iran's allies, form an inseparable part of the ceasefire," Mr. Ghalibaf said in a post on X.

Iran and the U.S. appeared to try to pressure each other on Thursday even as both countries were due to meet in Pakistan for talks this weekend.

Semiofficial news agencies in Iran suggested forces have mined the Strait of Hormuz while U.S. President Donald Trump warned that Iran would be hit even harder if it did not fulfil the agreement.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

II PU results see a big jump

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The II PUC results announced on Thursday saw 86.48% among freshers passing out, a significant increase from last year's 73.45%. When repeaters and private candidates are also taken into account, 81.58% passed, also up from 69.16% last year. Girls performed better both in pass percentage and among the top performers. The annual exam-2 will be held from April 30, 2026, to May 13. There will be no annual exam-3 for this year.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 4

Mt. 200 — life comes a full circle for seasoned pro Bhuvneshwar

His experience in guiding and nurturing the next crop of budding pace bowlers is an invaluable asset to any franchise; his ability to keep shifting goalposts and outwitting batters shows his hunger

GETTY IMAGES, VIVEK BENDRE, SPORTZPICS / IPL

R. Kaushik

Were he plying his wares in another era, Ayush Mhatre would have been the talk of the town. Since making his first-class debut a year and a half back, straightaway in the Irani Cup, no less, the little right-hander has tasted success in all three formats. He has two hundreds apiece in first-class, List A (domestic 50-over) and T20 cricket, and made his Indian Premier League debut last year for Chennai Super Kings after coming in as a mid-season injury replacement for his captain, Ruturaj Gaikwad.

In his very first IPL appearance, at his Wankhede Stadium home ground against Mumbai Indians, Mhatre announced himself with 32 off just 15 deliveries as he celebrated becoming CSK's youngest player of all time. A little later in the season, he smacked 94 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, almost single-handedly taking his team to a famous victory that wasn't. Two months back, he captained India's Under-19 team to yet another World Cup title, backing up 62 in the semifinal win over Afghanistan with 53 in the 100-run drubbing of England in the title round in Harare.

Mhatre is only 18 years old. A wizened, battle-hardened young lad, sure, but still only 18. He is a star in the making; however, he is smack bang in the middle of the Vaibhav Suryavanshi maelstrom. At 15, Suryavanshi is already a household name, already a superstar. When Mhatre weighed in with 53 against the English boys in Harare on February 6, Suryavanshi smashed 175. And now, in the IPL with Mhatre kicking off the season with scores of 0, 73 and 1, his one-time Under-19 opening partner has again upstaged him with the third fastest fifty (15 balls) in IPL history and with his sensational if brief assault on Jasprit Bumrah that brought him two sixes from the first three deliveries he has ever faced from the genius.

Fear not, Ayush. Your place in IPL folklore is secure.

It may not be the kind of statistic he might want to be remembered by, but surely, there must be something to be said for being an indelible part of history – such as Maninder Singh, whose dismissal brought about the second 'tie' in Test cricket, Wasim Akram, whose fall made Anil Kumble only the second bowler to take all ten wickets in a Test innings, and Shane Warne, who was the last of Harbhajan Singh's three consecutive victims in 2001, when he became the first Indian to take a Test hat-trick.

Alright, so Mhatre might not be in the same historic league of Maninder, Akram and Warne, but he will forever occupy a place in the record books as the 200th IPL victim of Bhuvneshwar Kumar. At 36, the Uttar Pradesh swing specialist is nearly twice as old as the right-hander from Mumbai, but clearly, he has lost none of his bite, as his recent exploits suggest.

Until last Sunday at the Chinnaswamy, when Bhuvneshwar had Mhatre caught at mid-off by his Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar, there was only one occupant of the 200-wicket club in the IPL. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, 35 and himself formerly of RCB, must have started to feel lonely, having got to that coveted landmark in 2024. He now has worthy company in Bhuvneshwar, a fabulous servant of Indian cricket who hasn't represented the country for more than three and a half years and is now almost exclusively a 20-over player, but in whom the fire continues to burn bright and undimmed.

It's been 11 months since first Rohit Sharma and then Virat Kohli announced their retirements from Test cricket. Internationally, they only play in the ODI format now and therefore nominally, they must turn out for their respective states in the all-India 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy to stay in contention for a place in the national side. Much time and energy has been expended over the last year debating the challenges of playing only one format at the highest level, especially given that ODI cricket is the least in-demand of the three variants at the country vs country grade. But Bhuvneshwar has flown under the radar, as he did for the most part of his decade-long India career that brought 294 wickets in 229 games across formats.

Bhuvneshwar hasn't played a representative first-class fixture since January 2024, when he turned up for Uttar Pradesh against Mumbai at the Wankhede. A month and a half previously, he finished with one for 48 against Andhra in Chandigarh in what is most likely to be his final List A appearance. Over the last two years, he has been confined to 20-over cricket alone, both in deference to advancing years and an overworked body, and while Rohit and Kohli have attracted all the attention even in retirement, Bhuvneshwar has quietly gone about his business without fuss or fanfare simply because he doesn't know any other way.

Master-stroke

Depending on how one wants to view it, it's ironic or coincidental that his milestone moment came with the team that first picked him in 2009, but for whom he didn't play a game until 2025. Bhuvneshwar was 19 when he joined RCB but didn't figure in the XI for two seasons on the trot until he was snapped up by Pune Warriors ahead of the 2011 season. He was just beginning to find his feet, with 13 wickets while conceding only 6.50 runs per over in his third season with the now defunct team, when Sunrisers Hyderabad swooped in ahead of the 2014 season to secure his services for a modest ₹4.25 crore. What an inspired choice that turned out to be.

In his first season with the boys in Orange, Bhuvneshwar picked up 20 wickets and backed it up with 18 the following year, sparking an extraordinary run of successes as he established himself as his team's most valuable bowling asset, alongside Afghanistan's Rashid Khan. When, under David Warner, Hyderabad secured their first title (Deccan Chargers had emerged triumphant in South Africa in 2009), Bhuvneshwar was the driving force with a Purple Cap-winning 23 strikes. He went three better the next year, with 26 scalps, though Hyderabad's title defence ended in disappointment.

In four seasons, he had accounted for 87 wickets at an economy rate of just over 7, tremendous numbers that amply illustrate the hold he had over the batters. New-ball success was almost a given, because he could swing the white ball both ways and had an especially mean, late inswinger to the right-hand batter. But he also kept adding to his repertoire, working on a variety of slower deliveries and a well-disguised knuckle ball that helped him hold his own at the death when not even his lack of express pace allowed the batters to line him up.

It was impossible for Bhuvneshwar to maintain those extraordinarily high standards. It didn't help that that was when he picked up a series of unrelated injuries which ended his Test career in early 2018. Over the next few seasons, his strike rate dipped and the economy rate surged and it was no surprise that Hyderabad chose to release him into the auction pool ahead of the 2025 season.

The previous year, Bhuvneshwar had taken just 11 wickets in 16 outings while going at 9.35 runs per over, each wicket had taken 5.1 overs in coming. It would have been tempting to overlook his credentials when the franchises gathered in Jeddah in November 2024 for the mega auction; after all, he was closing in on 35 years of age, when fast bowlers in India are put out to pasture, and his immediate record was hardly encouraging.

Value of experience

But RCB saw value in linking him up with Josh Hazlewood, the Australian virtuoso. They had strung together a power-packed batting line-up with a rejuvenated Kohli helming a group that included Phil Salt, Devdutt Padikkal, Tim David, Jacob Bethell, Jitesh Sharma and Romario Shepherd, under first-time captain Rajat Patidar. They realised the value of experience with the ball, and therefore they went all out to secure Bhuvneshwar's services at the auction. After an intense bidding war that took many by surprise, RCB snared him for ₹10.75 crore. It turned out to be money very well spent.

Hazlewood was the bowling star of the RCB campaign in 2026 with 22 wickets, but Bhuvneshwar wasn't too far behind. In his most successful run since 2017, the man from Meerut snaffled 17 wickets, playing ideal foil to the virtuoso Australian and shaping up as a terrific mentor for the Indian quicks in the franchise, among them Yash Dayal and Rasikh Dhar.

His economy of 9.29 might appear on the higher side until one takes into account the burgeoning rates of scoring and the smallness of several grounds across the country where even totals in the region of 210 are far from adequate. Nine years after playing a starring role in SRH's only title triumph, Bhuvneshwar became a two-time IPL winner when RCB bested Punjab Kings in a close final in Ahmedabad last June.

Bhuvneshwar has started the new season in pretty much the same way as he finished the last one. Two matches have produced four wickets, among them the Mhatre strike that has helped him gatecrash a hitherto exclusive 200-club of one. "Achieving milestones like this is always the result of what you do day in and day out over the years," he acknowledged, with characteristic humility.

"It feels good to get rewarded for the work you've been putting in over the years, so yes, I'm really happy about that. The IPL has been a big part of my career, and reaching 200 wickets is a special milestone. What makes it even more meaningful is that my IPL journey actually started with RCB, so to come back here and achieve this feels like a full-circle moment for me."

Full-circle or not, Bhuvneshwar's career is still in full bloom, almost. Despite the occasional nasty bouncer that catches batters by surprise, he will not terrorise and intimidate through sheer pace. And considering the rapidity with which the white ball has started swinging, his primary weapon has almost been neutralised. Yet, he has managed to keep shifting the goalposts and reinventing himself which, at 36, is huge credit to his hunger, his professionalism and the immense pride that he wears like a badge of honour. Whoever said nice guys don't finish first...

THE GIST

- In his first season with the boys in Orange, Bhuvneshwar picked up 20 wickets and backed it up with 18 the following year, sparking an extraordinary run of successes as he established himself as his team's most valuable bowling asset, alongside Rashid Khan
- RCB realised the value of experience with the ball, and therefore they went all out to secure Bhuvneshwar's services. The man from Meerut snaffled 17 wickets, playing ideal foil to the virtuoso Australian Hazlewood and shaping up as a terrific mentor for the Indian quicks in the franchise
- Reinventing himself at 36, is huge credit to his hunger, his professionalism and the immense pride that he wears like a badge of honour

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)

Specialised ARM Branch
No.40, 1st Floor, Statue Square,
Opp to Chikka Gadiyara, Mysuru.
E-mail: cb7899@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s particular that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Canara Bank, the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under Section 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, Charges and cost etc as detailed below.

The Property described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS"** under rule no.8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

1) M/s Shiva Enterprises (Proprietorship Firm), Kenchana Kuppe, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562109. **2) Proprietor Cum Mortgagor: Sri Shivananjaiah B** S/o Boraiah, Aged about 50 Years, MIG III, KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562109, **3) Guarantor Cum Mortgagor: Smt. Prema T M** W/o Shivananjaiah, Aged About 44 Years, MIG III KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562109

The Total Amount Due: Rs.52,39,759.24/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Nine and Twenty Four Paise Only) as on **01-04-2026** together with further interest, costs and expenses with further interest and charges due to contact **Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch, No.40, 1st Floor, Statue Square, Mysuru.**

Description of the immovable assets:

Property-1 : All That Part And Parcel Of The House Property Bearing, Kaneshumari Katha No. 3, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi Housing Board, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : East To West -26.24 Feet, North To South -49.20 Feet, Total Measuring -1291 Sq. Feet. Bounded By: East -** LIG No. 21, 22 & 23, **West -** Road, **North -** MIG-I, B. No. 4, **South -** MIG-I, B. No. 2.

Property-2 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing, Kaneshumari Katha No. 4, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi KHB Colony, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : East To West - 15 Meters, North To South -8 Meters, Total Measuring - 120 Sq. Meters. Bounded By: East -** LIG-II D, House No. 23 & 24, **West -** Road, **North -** MIG-I, House No. B-5, **South -** MIG - I, House No. B-3.

Property -3 All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kanesumari No. 1219/825/82, Site No. 82 Situated At Yogeshwara Layout, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka -562109. **Measuring : East To West -30 Feet, North To South - 40 Feet Total Measuring - 1200 Sq. Feet Bounded By: East -** Site No. 81, **West -** Site No. 83, **North -** Site No. 79, **South -** 25 Feet Road.

Property 4: All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kanesumari No. 450/46, Former Survey No. 156/15, Situated At Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka - 562109.

Measuring : 10 Guntas, Bounded By: East - Land Of Gomatappa, **West -** Land Of Kariyappa, **North -** Land Of Guddaiah, **South-** Land Of Mylarappa.

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

The details regarding E-Auction are Mentioned below:

Date and Time of E-Auction	28-04-2026 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM	
Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
Property -1	Rs. 54,00,000/-	Rs. 5,40,000/-
Property -2	Rs. 45,00,000/-	Rs. 4,50,000/-
Property -3	Rs. 36,18,000/-	Rs. 3,61,800/-
Property -	Rs. 1,96,02,000/-	Rs. 19,60,200/-
Bid Factor	Rs. 50,000/-	
Date & Time of Inspection	27-04-2026 at On or before 4 PM	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, Specialized ARM Branch, Mysuru, Canara Bank – C Vamsikrishna, Ph. No. 9848702166 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 10-04-2026
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

(DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION)
Karnataka Text Book Society(R)
6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003
E-mail:mdktbs.tender@gmail.com **Website:**https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in
No.A8/KTBS/ADM/CAUT/1/2026 E-90795 Date :09.04.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

Short-term Tender is invited through the e-portal from **eligible firms of Chartered Accountants, approved by the Accountant General, Karnataka State, and having their head office in Bengaluru, for conducting internal audit of the Karnataka Textbook Society offices for the period from 2026–27 to 2028–29.** The audit will be conducted at the office of KTBS (head Office), district and taluk textbook depots, and the Divisional textbook depot in Bengaluru. Detailed information is available in the tender document on the e-portal and the department website. Interested and eligible firms may submit their bids through the e-portal **on or before 24.04.2026 by 5:30 PM.**

E-procurement portal address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Portal Help line: 080-46010000 / 68948777
Department Website:**https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director,
Karnataka Textbook Society (R) Bengaluru

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Health Officer (Public Health),
9th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001

No.: HO/PH(BCCC)/PR/31/2025-26/CALL-2 Date: 09.04.2026

RE-TENDER SCHEDULED FOR THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS/ARV TO UPHC's OF BCCC

The Health Officer (Public Health), Bengaluru Central City Corporation invites Re-Tender proposal in two cover system for supply of drugs / ARV to UPHC's of BCCC through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) as per the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act & Rules 2000. Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned portal.

Following is event of bid process: (1) Re-Tender Reference No.: **File No: HO/PH(BCCC)/PR/31/2025-26/CALL-2**, **(2)** Date of commencement of download of tender document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: From **09.04.2026** onwards. **(3)** Date, time & venue of pre-bid meeting: **16.04.2026** at **12:30 p.m.** at the following venue: **9th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001**. **(4)** Last date and time for uploading online queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **16.04.2026** upto **5:00 p.m. (5)** Last date and time for uploading of eTender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **24.04.2026** upto **5:00 p.m. (6)** Date and time of online opening of Technical bids in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **27.04.2026, 11:00 a.m. (7)** Date and time of Sample submission: Will be intimated after Technical bid opening. **(8)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Health Officer (Public Health), 9th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001. Contact No.: 9480973395, Email ID: hophbccc2025@gmail.com**.

Note: (1) Completed tenders shall be uploaded through e-tendering system by the tenderers using their User ID on or before the last date and the time stipulated. **(2)** In the event of the specified date of opening of Technical Bid (First Cover) being declared a holiday for the Purchaser, the Technical bid will be opened on the next working day. **(3)** Prospective Service Providers willing to participate in this tender can download the bid documents with visiting the web (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sd/- Health Officer (Public Health),
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

Government of Punjab
OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR-CUM-DIRECTOR STATE TRANSPORT, PUNBUS, PUNJAB
(JEEVANDEEP BUILDING SECTOR17-A CHANDIGARH PH:0172-2704606)

No.241/ITASSISTANT-1/PUNBUS Date: 09-04-2026

E-NOTICE INVITING BID

Punjab State Bus Stand Management Company (PUNBUS) online e-tender is invited from the established, reputed and experienced bidders in two bid system (Technical & Commercial) for "Selection of Bidder for Passenger Information System (PIS) and Audio-Visual Announcement System along with audio visual advertisement sole rights through the system inside the bus stand at Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, Moga, Shiri Mukatsar Sahib, SBS Nagar, Tarn Taran, Nangal, Shiri Anandpur Sahib, Jagraon, Zira, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Rupnagar, Derababa Nanak, Majitha and Mukerian on Build, Installation, Operation and maintenance Model". Please contact helpdesk No. 0172-2704606

1. Uploading of Tender document: 10-04-2026 at 02:00 PM
2. Website: http://eproc.punjab.gov.in
3. Payment mode: Online through NEFT/RTGS/IPG/Net Banking
4. Pre-bid meeting: 16-04-2026 at 11:30AM in the office of MD, PUNBUS
5. Last date of Bid Submission: 01-05-2026 at 02:00 PM
6. Date of Technical Bid opening: 04-05-2026 at 04:00 PM
7. Last date and time of queries: 16-04-2026 at 05:00 PM IST (email id: editpunbus@gmail.com)

For participating in the above e-tender, the Bidder shall have to get themselves registered with http://eproc.punjab.gov.in and get ID & password. Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process.

1746/12/2026-27/10316 **Managing Director, PUNBUS**

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.

No.EE/PRED/RMG/JE/01/2026-27 Date: 06.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through KPP Portal system)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/PWD Licence for the works under different Head of Account. Minimum Tender amount **Rs.9.15 lakh**. Maximum Tender amount **Rs.100.00 lakh**. Last Date for submission of Tender Dated: **14.04.2026 by 4:00 PM**. Opening of the Technical Bid Tender Dated: **15.04.2026 at 4:30 PM**. Opening of the Financial Bid Tender Dated: **17.04.2026 at 4:30 PM** onwards (KW-III). For details & further information visit the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office in office hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Panchayathraj Engineering Division

DIPR/BSD/13/SA/2026-27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Commissioner, Opposite to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048

No: Comm/BECC/PS/E-213492/2025-26 **FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)** **Dated: 08.04.2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for Widening of Panathur Balagere Road from Panathur RUB to Varthur Gunjur Road as per RMP-2015, for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the 18.00 Mtr width.

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR), BECC and Greater Bengaluru Authority, N.R Square, Sampangiramanagar, Bangalore-560002 within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch office : Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation, Opposite to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : Bangalore Urban **Name of the Taluk : Bangalore East** **Name of the Village : Panathur**

Sl No	Sy No/ Khatha No	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the land / plot and extent in sq.m		Boundaries of the land /plot				Building Details			Present activity on Land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sqm*	Name and address of the owner of the plot/ land for which DRC is to be issued.
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sqm	Type of Construction and No. of Floors	Floor area Ratio			
1	Sy No.44/10 (Old Sy.No 44/7)	Vacant Land			Commercial / Residential / Converted Land		284.29		Balagere village Boundary	Halla	Remaining Portion of Sy.No 44/10	Road	None	None	None	Vacant	90,000/-	Sri. Vijaya Bhaskar Reedy & S/o S.R. Raju, Sri. Balagere Raju Siddartha S/o S R Raju No. 297, Shobha Dream Area, 1st Gate Main Road, Balagere Village, Panathur Post, Varthuru Hobli, Bangalore-560087

Note: Market guidelines value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Governement Order No: ನಆಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.09.2024. **and as per the Circular No** :ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.09.2024.

Sd/-
Commissioner, Bangalore East City Corporation

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN:U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/**gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com**

E-Procurement Notice

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers/ supplier only for procurement of following Materials :-

Sr	NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Online Bid Submission start date	Online Bid Submission end date	Technical bid opening date and time
1	**15/PR/JBVNL/2026-27** 33/11 KV, 5 MVA Cu. Wd. CRGO Core Power Transformer	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/04/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/05/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/05/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
2	**16/PR/JBVNL/2026-27** 33/11 KV, 10 MVA Cu. Wd. CRGO Core Power Transformer	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/04/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/05/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/05/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
3	**17/PR/JBVNL/2026-27** EHV Grade Transformer Oil	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/04/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/05/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/05/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
4	**18/PR/JBVNL/2026-27** ISI Marked ACSR Rabbit Conductor	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/04/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/05/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/05/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.
5	**19/PR/JBVNL/2026-27** ISI Marked ACSR Dog Conductor	Rs 10000/- + GST	13/04/2026 from 13:00 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:10 Hrs.	13/04/2026 from 13:20 Hrs.	05/05/2026 upto 18:00 Hrs.	06/05/2026 at 18: 00 Hrs.

NOTE:- (i) Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9470378503/ 9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
(ii) Tender fee & EMD must be paid through online mode.
(iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को 18003456570 (कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR 377104 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27)#D

Sd/-
Dy.General Manager (P)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main,
2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058, Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094178, 4185, 4541, 4144

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541, 4185, 4144).

Name of work	**Providing LT Panels, Cables Earthing and other Electrical works at RDA Building, SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**	**Electrical refurbishment of Lk-1 & Lk-2 antenna terminal at ILF, ISTRAC, Lucknow.**	**Refurbishment of Earthing System & Lightning protection system at IDSN Campus, ISTRAC, Byalalu, Bengaluru.**
E-tender Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-04/2026-27 Dated: 09.04.2026**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-05/2026-27 Dated: 09.04.2026**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-06/2026-27 Dated: 09.04.2026**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 21.48 Lakhs**	**Rs. 7.17 Lakhs**	**Rs. 23.60 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tenders**		
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of issue of work order	**Three (03) Months**	**Four (04) Months**	**Three (03) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs on 10.04.2026 to 25.04.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 16.00 hrs on 10.04.2026 to 20.04.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 16.00 hrs on 10.04.2026 to 25.04.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid Clarification	**From 11.00 hrs on 11.04.2026 to 26.04.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 11.00 hrs on 11.04.2026 to 21.04.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 11.00 hrs on 11.04.2026 to 26.04.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time of reply to Bid Clarification	**27.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**22.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**27.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**28.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**23.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**28.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**30.04.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**	**24.04.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**	**30.04.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 42,960/-**	**Rs. 14,340/-**	**Rs. 47,200/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) **Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** on the website **www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

भारतीय सेना/ **INDIAN ARMY**
पशु चिकित्सा कोर में अल्प सेवा कमीशन
SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION IN REMOUNT & VETERINARY CORPS

1. भारतीय सेना के पशु चिकित्सा कोर में 95वां अल्प सेवा कमीशन कोर्स हेतु पुरुष और महिला पशु चिकित्सा स्नातकों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।
2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन कृपया वेबसाईट –**www.joinindianarmy.nic.in** पर देखें। आवेदन केवल ऑनलाइन ही स्वीकार किये जाएंगे और आवेदन प्रक्रिया निम्नलिखित अवधि तक होगी:-

2.1. अल्प सेवा कमीशन (आरवीसी) कोर्स (महिला) - **15 अप्रैल 2026 से 15 मई 2026**

2.2. अल्प सेवा कमीशन (आरवीसी) कोर्स (पुरुष) - **17 अप्रैल 2026 से 18 मई 2026**

यदि कोई पूछताछ करनी हो तो, महानिदेशालय पशुचिकित्सा सेवाएं, क्वार्टरमास्टर जनरल शाखा, एकीकृत मुख्यालय रक्षा मंत्रालय (थल सेना), पश्चिमी खण्ड-3, आर के पुरम , नई दिल्ली - 110066 से लिखित अथवा ई मेल आई डी: **persvet-1779@nic.in** में संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

1. Applications are invited from male and female veterinary graduates for 95th Short Service Commission Course in Remount & Veterinary Corps of the INDIAN ARMY.

2. For Detailed notification please visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. Applications will only be accepted via online mode and will remain open as under :

2.1. SSC (RVC) Course (Women) - **15 Apr 2026 to 15 May 2026**
2.2. SSC (RVC) Course (Men) - **17 Apr 2026 to 18 May 2026**

Queries if any be sought from Dte Gen RVS, QMG Branch, IHQ of MoD (Army), West Block-3, RK Puram, New Delhi-110 066 in writing OR through E-mail ID : **persvet-1779@nic.in**

नोट :-
1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।
2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन और जानकारी के लिए, कृपया www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर जाएं।

Note :-
1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
2. For detailed Notification, please visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in.

CBC 10601/11/0001/2627

‘Zombie Drug’ panic turns out to be hoax after police probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A viral video that triggered widespread panic over alleged use of “zombie drug” in the city has been confirmed as a hoax following a detailed police investigation, Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

The video, which surfaced on social media, showed a man standing motionless on a street in the Bagalur area near Nitte College between April 7 and 8. It was widely circulated with claims linking the incident to the use of synthetic “zombie drug”, sparking concern among residents.

Acting swiftly, the Yelahanka police traced the individual in the video, a migrant labourer, and subjected him to a medical examination.

According to police findings, the man was not under the influence of any synthetic narcotics.

Instead, tests revealed that he had consumed alcohol along with medication prescribed for arthritis and sinus-related issues, which likely caused his condition.

Taking serious note of the spread of misinformation, the police have handed over the case to the Central Crime Branch (CCB) for further investigation. Authorities are currently tracking the individual who originally uploaded and circulated the video on social media.

Mr. Singh expressed concern over the irresponsible sharing of unverified content, noting that many people amplified the video without confirming its authenticity or informing the police.

The Police Commissioner warned that strict action would be taken against those responsible for spreading false information to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Police have urged the public to verify information before sharing it online and to report suspicious content to authorities instead of creating panic.

Boy drowns in lake

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 10-year-old boy drowned in a lake in Chikkabanavara in the Soladevanahalli Police Station limits on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Sheikh Sha Wali, son of a migrant labourer couple from Kalaburagi. Wali was a class 5 student at a government school. According to the police, Wali had ventured into the lake to swim but accidentally drowned. Passers-by who noticed the body alerted the authorities. Police personnel rushed to the spot, recovered the body, and sent it for post-mortem examination.

A case of unnatural death has been registered. Authorities are awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Tremor

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Residents of some villages around Tikota in Vijayapura experienced a mild earthquake measured at 3.1 on the Richter scale on Thursday.

HC halts construction on temple premises

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passes the interim order on a writ petition filed in 2024 by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile royal family

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The petitioner had brought to the court’s notice that construction works on the Chamundeshwari Temple premises were carried out, contrary to the court’s earlier orders. FILE PHOTO

Pulling up the Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru for carrying out constructions in “blatant disregard” of the undertaking given to the court and its earlier multiple interim orders, the Karnataka High Court has directed the officer to immediately stop all construction activities of whatsoever nature on the Chamundeshwari Temple premises, without any exception.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passed the interim order on a writ petition filed in 2024 by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, who is a legal descendant of the erstwhile royal family, challenging the Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Act, 2024.

The petitioner had brought to the court’s notice that construction works were carried out, contrary to the court’s earlier orders.

Breach of undertaking

“Any further violation of the interim orders of this court or breach of the undertaking shall be viewed with utmost seriousness and would amount to aggravated contempt, warranting initiation of appropriate proceedings against the Deputy Commissioner in accordance with law,” the court said, while pointing out that despite clear interim orders dating back to October 2024, the Deputy Commissioner proceeded with large-scale, permanent construction works.

Raps DC for carrying out constructions in ‘blatant disregard’ of the undertaking given to the court and its earlier multiple interim orders

The legal battle began on October 15, 2024, when the court recorded the State’s assurance that no movable or immovable temple property would be disposed of, and that any action under the relevant Act of 2024 would require “prior leave of this court”.

On January 14, 2026, the State gave a categorical undertaking that “no construction activities, which are of permanent nature will be done”. This undertaking was reiterated on February 17, 2026, with the court cautioning that any deviation would invite “strict action”.

Photos before court

Meanwhile, the photographs and materials placed before the court revealed that construction of “considerable magnitude” had continued, and the Deputy Commissioner strangely stated in a recent affidavit that the earlier undertaking cannot be sustained in view of subsequent developments and release of funds worth ₹47 crore by the Union government.

However, Justice Magadum rejected the Deputy Commissioner’s contentions, terming these as “mischievous and wholly untenable”, while observing, “Orders passed by constitutional courts are not advisory in nature but are binding mandates that carry with them an obligation of strict compliance by all instrumentalities of the State. The executive cannot arrogate to itself the discretion to disregard or dilute judicial orders on the pretext of administrative exigencies or subsequent financial allocations.”

The court further noted that the Deputy Commissioner had admitted in an affidavit that structures executed below ground are of a permanent nature, which runs “prima facie” contrary to the court’s earlier orders.

It directed the Deputy Commissioner to submit, within a period of two weeks, a detailed affidavit furnishing complete accounts of the expenditure incurred out of the sum of ₹47 crore released by the Union government.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE : EM/PD-09/2025

Name of the work : “Providing Assistance in Office-cum-Site works under E&M Department on job work basis for a period of one year”.
Estimated Cost : ₹1,25,99,364/- excluding GST.
Last Date & Time of submission : 17/04/2026 at 18:00 Hrs.
Refer our website for details : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Executive Engineer (E),
Planning & Design Cell,
Elect. & Mech. Department

PPA/PR/05/2026-2027, dt.09/04/2026

Govt. of Bihar

Selection of Agency for Customization, Implementation and Maintenance of Integrated E-Governance solution using Urban Platform for Delivery of Online Governance (UPYOG) and Handholding of all Urban Local Bodies

Urban Development and Housing Department
1stFloor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna–800015
(Tel:0612-2215580,2215385; Fax:2217059,2231566;
Email:urbansec-bih@nic.in, Website:https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban

File No:- 01/स्था. (NUDM)01/2026-4108

1. Urban Development & Housing Department, Gov. of Bihar, invites proposals from eligible Firm for Selection of Agency for Customization, Implementation and Maintenance of Integrated E-Governance solution using Urban Platform for Delivery of Online Governance (UPYOG) and Handholding of all Urban Local Bodies.
2. Interested Consultancy Firms may download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) Document, from **website: https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in or https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban.**

SN	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1	Website for submission of proposal	www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/
2	Mode of Submission	Online submission through eproc2 portal (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and at the same time submission of Hard copies (EMD & Tender fee payment proof and original copy of BG, affidavit, Black listing ,Power of Attorney a s per RFP document)at UD &HD office
3	Last date and time for Submission of Technical & Financial proposal on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in	4-05 -2026 up to 07:00 PM
4	Date and time of Pre bid meeting	17-04-2026 by 11:30AM
5	Last date and time for S ubmission of H ard Copies (EMD, Tender fee payment proof and original copy of BG, affidavit, Power of Attorney & Black listing as per RFP document.)	07-05-2026 up to 03:00 PM Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna – 800015
6	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids	7-05-2026 at 03:30 PM
7	Date and time of opening of Financial Proposal	Will be intimated later to successful bidders
8	Method of Selection	Least Cost Selection (LCS)

Agencies/ Firms may download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) Document, from website: **https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in or https://state.bihar.gov.in/urban.**
For participating in e-RFP process, the applicant shall have to get them registered to get user ID Password and digital Signature. This will enable them to access the website-www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and participate in e-tender. Those who are not registered in e-tendering systems, they may contact "e- procurement HELPDESK, Mjunction Services Limited ,RJ Complex,2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S.-Shastri Nagar, Patna -800014" (Toll Free Number:18005726571, Emal: eproc2support@bihar. gov.in) for registration.

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

Additional Secretary
Urban Development and Housing Department

PR- 000638 (Urban) 2026-27

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)

Applications are invited for the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.

The details of eligibility, other requirements and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the post may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website: https://dopt.gov.in. The last date of receipt of applications in the Department is **18th May, 2026.**

CBC-32101/11/0001/2627

ಡಾ. ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar (Admin), Jnana Jyothi Central College Campus,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru – 560001. Ph. No. 080-22961016/22131385
E-Mail ID: registrar@bcu.ac.in / registrarbcu@gmail.com

No: Dr.MSBCU/ACA/UG Admissions/2026-27 Date: 09.04.2026

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Admission to Undergraduate Courses at Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University – “Jnanajyothi Central College Campus”, University College for Women (Malleshwaram), PG Centre (Bagalur), Bengaluru and affiliated colleges for the Academic Year 2026–27 is hereby notified. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to following Undergraduate (UG) courses offered at the University Campus and its constituent college and PG center.

1. Courses Offered at “Jnanajyothi – Central College Campus”

Sl. No.	Course	Discipline
1	BCA	Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
2	BCA	Data Science
3	B.Com	Accounting & Finance
4	B.Com	Financial Technology
5	BBA	Business Analytics
6	B.Sc	Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics
7	B.Sc	Fashion & Apparel Design
8	BA	Economics, History, Journalism, Social Work, Journalism, French, English, Journalism, French
		Languages Offered: Kannada, English, Hindi, French, German

2. Courses Offered at University College for Women, 13th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru

Sl.No.	Course	Discipline
1	BCA	Computer Applications
2	BCA	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
3	B.Com	General
4	B.Com	Accounting and Finance
5	BA	Economics, History, Journalism
		Languages Offered : Kannada, English, French, German, Sanskrit, Hindi

3. Courses offered at PG Center, Bagalur, Bengaluru.

Sl.No.	Course	Discipline
1	BCA	Computer Applications
2	BCA	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
3	B.Com	General
4	B.Com	Accounting and Finance
		Languages Offered: Kannada, English, Hindi

4. Admissions in Affiliated colleges

Admissions to undergraduate (UG) degree courses is also commenced in 219 Affiliated colleges and 11 Autonomous colleges located across 13 Legislative Assembly constituencies : **Shanthinagar, Byatarayanapura, Yelahanka, Malleshwaram, Hebbal, Shivajinagar, Gandhinagar, Chamarajpet, Chickpet, Basavanagudi, BTM Layout, Jayanagar, and Rajajinagar.**

For more details, candidates are advised to visit the university websites : **www.bcu.ac.in / www.bcu.karnataka.gov.in**

Application & Admission Details :

- The eligibility for admission is 10+2 or any other equivalent qualification.
- Candidates are informed to visit the University websites **www.bcu.ac.in / www.bcu.karnataka.gov.in** for further information.
- For online registration, candidates are informed to visit the Government of Karnataka official website **https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in**
- Candidates are advised to regularly check the above websites.

Note: If the required number of applications is not received for any course, the University reserves the right not to offer admissions for that course.

DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/134/2026-27

Sd/-
Registrar

CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

MESMERISING MUSICAL PLAY NEVER TO BE MISSED
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my clients are intending to Purchase the Schedule Property from its owners namely **Sri.VENKATESH. C** S/o. late. Chinnappa, aged about 57 years, residing at No.316, 24th A Cross, 30th Main, Sector-II, H.S.R Layout, Bangalore-560102 and **Sri.G.V.PATEL,** S/o.G.H. Veerabhadrappa, aged about 60 years, residing at No.181, I Road, 2nd Phase, Ideal Homes Town Ship, R.R Nagar, Bangalore-560098.

Any person having any manner of claim, right, title and interest over the Schedule Property are hereby notified to register their claim with copies of documents to the undersigned, within 15 days from this date of Public Notice. If no claims or objections are registered, my client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction to purchase the Schedule Property, deemed to be free from all encumbrances. Any claims received beyond 15 days will not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.232, carved out Converted Survey No.86/2, in the layout known as “RELIAABLE LAKE DEW RESIDENCY”, situated at Haralur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru east Taluk, presently comes under the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, having BBMP Katha No.206/232, BBMP EPID Katha No.8685832956, measuring East to West 70 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring 2800 Square feet, and bounded on the:

East by : Road; West by : Site No.231; North by : Site No.233; South by : Road.

Akshay N Reddy, Advocate
Office at No.995, 26th Cross, 17th Main, Sector-III, H.S.R Layout, Bangalore-560 102.
Ph: 7259833337

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/177/2026 Dated : 16-03-2026

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Conducting Final location survey for New line between Shivamogga Town (SMET) - Sringeri Mangaluru (MAJN) (332 km), Talguppa (TLGP) - Honnavar (HNA) (95 km) Almatti (LMT) - Yadgir (YG) (162 km) and Bhadravati (BDVT) - Chikjajur (JRU) (73 km). **(Tender Ref. No. SWR-FLS-RATE-CONTRACT-03R)**	Rs. 33,52,62,609/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Modified**
09-04-2026 (15:00 Hrs.)	**21-04-2026 (15:00 Hrs)**

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Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/20/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients intend to purchase all that piece and parcel of undeveloped **converted and agricultural lands**, belonging to the respective Owners, morefully described in the 'Schedule' hereunder and hereinafter collectively referred as **'Item Nos. 1 to 9 of the Schedule Property'**.

Any person or person/s, entity/ies including any bank/ societies/ financial institutions, companies, asserting/ having any right, title, interest, claim or demand, of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Item Nos. 1 to 9 of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, loan, deposit of title deeds, tenancy, sub-tenancy, let, lease, license, inheritance, succession, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, bequest, easement, trust, covenant, possession, occupation, family arrangement/settlement, partition, contracts/ agreements, partnership, litigation, Decree, Court Order, Award of any Court of Law, Tribunal, Authority and/or any other fora, acquisition, agreement/s for sale, partnership, other contracts/ agreements or otherwise of any nature whatsoever or otherwise having any claim/s or against any of the Owners or objecting to sale or any transactions by any of the Owners, are hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned within **ten (10) days** from the date of this Public Notice, together with documentary proof thereof, failing which, any such claim or claims, shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and no such claims will be deemed to exist and our Clients shall proceed with the purchase the said Item Nos. 1 to 9 of the Schedule Property, without any impediments and/or reference to or regard for such claim/s, demand/s, etc.

SCHEDULE [SCHEDULE PROPERTY]

ALL THAT piece and parcel of the un-developed converted and agricultural lands, in all measuring **21 Acres 38 Guntas**, situated at **Ramasandra Village** and **Mallasandra Village**, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk & District, which is morefully described hereunder and butted and bounded, that is to say, as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey Nos. & Villages	Measurements			Boundaries				Name/s of Owner/Owners	Conversion Details
		Acres	Guntas	Kharab	East	West	North	South		
1	194 (Old Sy. No.94) of Ramasandra Village	2	00	00	Sy.No.208	Road & Byranahalli Village Boundary	Sy.No.214	Byranahalli Village Boundary	Smt. Arpita Thakur	O.M.No.435896, dated 05/04/2023, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District
2	208 (Old Sy. No.94) of Ramasandra Village	2	00	00	Sy.No.189	SyNo.194 & Byranahalli Village Boundary	Sy.No.214	Byranahalli Village Boundary	Smt. Arpita Thakur	O.M.No. 435890, dated 05/04/2023, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District
3	189 (Old Sy. No.94) of Ramasandra Village	2	00	00	Sy.No.188	Sy. No.208	Sy. No. 176	Byranahalli Village Boundary	Sri Anantha. R. C.	Agricultural Land
4	176 (Old Sy. No.94) of Ramasandra Village	2	00	00	Sy.No.177	Sy.No.214	Sy.No.94	Sy. Nos. 188 & 189	Sri K. Shankar @ Shankar Shetty, Sri B.R.Muralidhar and Sri Jagadish Narayana Shet	Agricultural Land
5	177 (Old Sy. No.94) of Ramasandra Village	2	00	00	Mallasa ndra Village Boundary	Sy.No.176	Sy. No. 207	Mallasandra Village Boundary	Sri K. Shankar @ Shankar Shetty, Sri B.R.Muralidhar and Sri Jagadish Narayana Shet	Agriculutral Land
6	207 (Old Sy. No.94) of Ramasandra Village	3	00	00	Mallasandra Village Boundary	Sy.No.94	Sy.No.178	Sy.No.177	Smt. Arpita Thakur	O.M.No.152529, dated 11/09/2020, issued by Deputy Commissioner Kolar District.
7	185 (Old Sy. No.94) of Ramasandra Village	3	38	00	Mallasandra Village Boundary	Sy.Nos.178 & 94	Sy. No. 217/1	Mallasandra Village Boundary	Sri B. Sathyanarayana Singh	O.M.No.419062, dated 16/01/2023, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District
8	217/1 (Old Sy No.94) of Ramasandra Village	2	00	00	Sy. Nos.35 & 85 of Mallasandra Village	Sy. No. 94	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 217	Sy. No.185	Sri B. Sathyanarayana Singh	Agricultural Land
9	85 (Old Sy No.35) of Mallasandra Village	3	00	00	Sy.No.35 of Mallasandra Village	Sy. No. 217 of Rama sandra Village	Private Land	Sy. No. 35 of Malla sandra Village	Sri Anup Singh	Agricultural Land

Dated this 9th day of April 2026.
Through its Advocates
Partha Mandal, Founding Partner **Umesha R,** Partner
CHUGH UNIVERSAL LEGAL
5th Floor, ‘Phoenix Pinnacle’ # 46, Ulsoor Road Bangalore - 560 042 Phone:- +91 80 6761 6000

Semaglutide is off patent: what does this mean for obesity in India?

India is facing a growing epidemic of obesity and metabolic disease and GLP1 drugs are one form of treatment; while a reduction in costs means easier and more widespread access to these drugs, it must be remembered that they serve as add-ons to the fundamental precepts of lifestyle modifications and exercise

Nanditha Ramachandran

When Rakesh (name changed) first walked into the clinic, he could not fit into a chair with armrests due to his body weight. Weighing 169 kg, Rakesh had almost given up on his weight loss goals, having tried multiple diets, and attempted various forms of exercise.

"I am fed up, doc!", he said. " I cannot even drive a car - I cannot fit in the seat!"

Fast forward to today and Rakesh walks in, having lost 37 kgs, over a span of 9 months .

"It has changed my life!" he said." "I can drive again! I swim now, I feel so much more confident".

What changed his life was GLP1 therapy, the 'weight loss' drugs that have revolutionised the way we treat metabolic disease!

As his doctor, what I see, goes far beyond the numbers on the scale: GLP1 therapy has improved Rakesh's metabolic health, reduced his cardiovascular risk, improved his fatty liver and optimised his cholesterol and blood pressure. These, therefore, are not just weight-loss drugs: they are disease-modifying agents that target the root of metabolic disease.

GLP1 therapy has taken the world by storm in recent times. These drugs, which have been around for almost two decades now for the management of diabetes, gained popularity, when their indication expanded beyond diabetes, as anti-obesity/weight management drugs.

Obesity has been found to be the main reason for the increasing prevalence of diabetes in all populations. Therefore, targeting obesity seems to be the right strategy, especially at individual levels. GLP1 therapy, in that regard, has been a game-changer, transforming the management of both obesity and diabetes.

New-found popularity: From ₹11,000 to ₹18,000 a month for a pen, the cost of GLP1 has now dropped to around ₹5,000 per month, making it more affordable and thus increasing access. GETTY IMAGES

The Indian context

The growing burden of type 2 diabetes and metabolic disease, including obesity, in India, is a matter of grave concern. This is related to changing food habits, especially an increase in the consumption of fat, as well as sedentary lifestyles. Indians have a high risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, even with lower levels of generalised obesity due to what is known as the "thin-fat" phenotype. This means that even if not obese by overall body weight, Indians have higher body fat percentage and higher insulin resistance, thus increasing our risk for type 2 diabetes and lifestyle diseases.

Targeted therapies such as GLP1, combined with lifestyle changes, can play a crucial role in addressing this growing epidemic in India. GLP1 therapy, when used in the right individual, is a great option for the typical "insulin resistant" Indian. Through its actions, it can result in meaningful weight loss - reducing waist circumference and body fat and improving metabolic health.

On March 22, the originator company, Novo Nordisk's patent for semaglutide (the active ingredient) expired, and the floodgates opened. More than 50 companies in India have now launched semaglutide at almost half the price that multinational companies sold it at.

What does this mean for India? One of the biggest barriers for GLP1 therapy so far, the cost, may now be overcome. From ₹11,000 to ₹18,000 a month for a pen, the cost has now dropped to around ₹5,000 per month, making it more affordable and thus increasing access.

Who can take it?

GLP1 therapy has clear indications, as to who can use it and when.

Being primarily an antidiabetic agent, its use in type 2 diabetes is clear. In people without diabetes, these drugs have been approved for weight reduction. Here, they can be used in anyone with a BMI of over 27, suffering from obesity-related complications such as obstructive sleep apnea, diabetes, hypertension etc., or in a person with a BMI of over 30 without diabetes. This is a boon to many, in whom lifestyle changes alone do not suffice, and in fact, bridges the gap between lifestyle management and bariatric surgery for obesity management.

It is important to note that these drugs are not shortcuts and not for casual use or as cosmetic quick fixes.

Do they really work, and how?

The short answer is yes. But this also depends on two factors: pharmacogenomics, as each person's response to a drug may be different, and tolerability to the drug , which in turn determines compliance to taking it, and ease with dose escalation, as weight loss is best with higher doses.

GLP1 therapy, primarily works through natural pathways in the body, by regulating/suppressing appetite, delaying gastric emptying time and other mechanisms. Hence the response to the drug is largely dependent on each person's natural response. On an average, a good response would be between 10 to 15% of body weight loss from baseline weight.

As with any other drug, GLP1 therapy must only be used under medical supervision, by a certified health professional.

Side effects are mainly gastro-intestinal (due to the mechanism of action) and include – nausea, loss of appetite, burping and in some cases, diarrhea. However it is important to note, that these side effects are usually transient, and subside after the first few weeks. With medical guidance, these side effects can be mitigated to a large extent.

As far as safety is concerned, there is a rare association with pancreatic inflammation, thyroid tumours and rare case reports of eye complications. Proper guidance and monitoring are key to safe and effective use.

When one stops

If you lost a lot of weight through diet and exercise, and then stopped both, what would happen? You would potentially regain the weight. The same principle applies to GLP1 therapy.As with any intervention, stopping the drugs may cause a regaining of weight to some extent. This serves to illustrate the fact that obesity is a chronic, relapsing condition, requiring long-term treatment.

It is important to reiterate that GLP1 therapy is not a replacement to lifestyle changes or a shortcut for weight loss. It is only an add-on to lifestyle modifications, including diet and exercise.

Another factor to remember while on GLP1 therapy is that it is important to include strength training/muscle strengthening, and sufficient protein in the diet, so as to reduce muscle loss. A study found that the use of semaglutide, when combined with sufficient protein intake and resistance training, resulted in fat mass loss of 18%, and although lean body mass initially dropped, it was subsequently maintained and stabilised.

India is facing a growing epidemic of obesity and metabolic disease, including in the young population.

This looming crisis demands immediate attention and action. GLP1 drugs are one form of treatment and while exciting, there is an urgent necessity to tackle the problem on other fronts. We need to change food policies to reduce consumption of processed food and reduce fat content in marketed food products. Similarly, urban and town planning must be rejigged to encourage physical activity.

Obesity now is considered a chronic metabolic disease. While clinicians today have an effective tool, with GLP1 therapy enriching the landscape of options, the real question that remains is, will this translate into meaningful change in public health? Only time and our actions now, will tell.

(Dr. Nanditha Ramachandran is director and consultant diabetologist at Dr. A. Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospitals in Chennai. Drnanditharamachandran@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- The growing burden of type 2 diabetes and metabolic disease, including obesity, in India, is a matter of grave concern. GLP1 therapy, in that regard, has been a game-changer, transforming the management of both obesity and diabetes
- GLP1 therapy, when used in the right individual, is a great option for the typical "insulin resistant" Indian. Through its actions, it can result in meaningful weight loss – reducing waist circumference and body fat and improving metabolic health
- On March 22, the originator company, Novo Nordisk's patent for semaglutide (the active ingredient) expired, and the floodgates opened. More than 50 companies in India are now selling semaglutide at cheaper rates than the multinational companies

Climate change reshaping disease patterns, straining health systems: report

Geetha Srimathi
CHENNAI

Climate change is emerging as a major public health threat in India, reshaping disease patterns, straining healthcare systems, and placing nearly 40% of districts at high risk from extreme weather events, according to a new report.

The report, *Under the Weather: India's Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience*, by Dasra, a philanthropy fund organisation, highlights how rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, floods, and cyclones are no longer isolated events but part of a continuous cycle of disruption affecting health, livelihoods, and access to care across the country.

Changing disease landscape

Extreme weather events in India are increasing in frequency and intensity, bringing both immediate and long-term risks, the report notes. Floods trigger outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as cholera and hepatitis, while heatwaves lead to dehydration, heatstroke, and increased cardiovascular stress.

The report says climate change is altering how diseases spread. Warmer temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are expanding the range of vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria into new regions. Areas that were previously unaffected, including Shimla, parts of Jammu & Kashmir, and the Himalayan foothills, are now reporting cases. The report also identifies Pune as a major dengue hotspot, with cases expected to rise further.

Non-communicable diseases are also linked to climate stress. Heat exposure has been associated with higher cardiovascular mortality, while worsening air pollution contributes to respiratory illnesses and chronic conditions. Climate change, the report says, is acting as a "health-risk multiplier", increasing both disease burden and pressure on healthcare systems.

Unequal burden

The impact is not evenly distributed. Vulnerable communities – including rural populations, informal workers, women, and children – face the greatest risks. These groups are often the least equipped to cope with climate shocks, deepening existing inequalities.

Extreme heat, for instance, reduces labour productivity and increases health risks for outdoor workers. The report notes that India lost an estimated 160 billion labour hours due to heat exposure in 2021.

Big impact: Vulnerable communities — including rural populations, informal workers, women, and children — face the biggest impact of climate change. K.V.S. GIRI

Women and children face heightened risks from climate-related health impacts. The report notes that exposure to extreme heat is linked to a 16% increase in the odds of preterm birth during heatwaves, with risks rising further for every 1 degree Celsius increase in temperature.

Air pollution, particularly fine particulate matter (PM2.5), has been associated with hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, including pre-eclampsia, as well as increased gestational blood pressure. As infants and young children have limited ability to regulate body temperature, it makes them more prone to heat stress, dehydration, and respiratory illnesses.

Exposure to air pollution is also linked to low birth weight, asthma, and reduced lung function, the report says.

Climate disasters also disrupt access to healthcare. Floods and cyclones can damage hospitals, cut off roads, and interrupt the supply of medicines and vaccines. In remote areas, even a small disruption can leave communities without access to basic services.

Beyond direct health impacts, climate change is also affecting livelihoods and economic stability. Rising healthcare costs, loss of income, and reduced productivity are creating a cycle of vulnerability, particularly for those already at risk.

Efforts taken

Despite these challenges, the report highlights growing efforts to address the climate-health link. Over the past decade, India has begun to move from broad climate policies to more targeted approaches that recognise the connection between climate and health. Initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health and State-level action plans are helping shape local responses. Heat Action Plans, which include early warnings and preparedness measures, are now being implemented in several cities and districts.

These efforts are helping communities adapt to both immediate shocks and long-term climate risks.

Challenges ahead

However, the report identifies several challenges, including a lack of local, disaggregated data linking climate events to health outcomes, limiting targeted interventions. Funding for adaptation remains constrained and skewed towards mitigation, while weak public awareness and fragmented data systems further hinder effective response.

The report calls for stronger collaboration between government, civil society, and the private sector, along with greater investment in local data systems and climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure. It also calls for placing health at the centre of climate policy, rather than treating it as a secondary concern.

(geetha.srimathi@thehindu.co.in)

FRIDAY
April 10, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 85

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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Q1 sees 9,794 challans issued for drunk driving

Between January and the end of March 2025, the BTP issued 7,100 challans; in 2023, 2022, and 2021, the number of challans issued in the same period was less than 4,000

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

In the first three months of 2026, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have booked a whopping 9,794 drunk driving cases, the highest in the last five years, highlighting increased enforcement.

However, recommendations for suspending driving licence (DL) remain below 1,500, accounting for less than 20% of the total challans issued, despite the BTP introducing measures to increase recommendations aimed at curbing drunk-driving behaviour.

In Bengaluru, when caught drunk driving for the first time, a hefty fine of ₹10,000 is levied and can attract up to one year of imprisonment. For a second offence, the fine increases to ₹15,000, along with up to two years of imprisonment. In both instances, the BTP can recommend to the Transport Department that the violator's DL be suspended.

Bengalureans can expect more drunk driving enforcement drives across the city — not only at traditional spots, but also at new locations, say police. K. MURALI KUMAR

"Earlier, we had to send the original DL to the Transport Department, but violators used to evade this by showing photos or photocopies of their DLs," a senior traffic police officer explained. According to the officer, driving without a licence attracts a ₹1,000 fine. In many cases, violators paid ₹11,000 in total (for drunk driving plus riding without a DL) and got away without having their licence cancelled.

To plug this loophole, the BTP and the Transport Department reached a consensus that the latter would consider suspensions even if the BTP submitted a photocopy of the DL, not just the original, according to the officer. "Thereafter, we have seen an increase in the number of suspension recommendations, but it is still low and needs to be strengthened," he admitted.

More interventions

M.S. Gautham, professor in the Department of Epidemiology at NIMHANS, explained that DL suspension is paramount because it complements enforcement by the BTP. Implementing additional measures such as awareness campaigns, along with licence suspension, can go beyond mere enforcement and help shape the behaviour of violators.

"Enforcement alone won't solve much of the drunk driving problem; behavioural change has to be brought about through social media campaigns. For that, surveys and studies must be conducted to understand the issue in its entirety," he added.

Mr. Gautham pointed out that data integration between the BTP and the Transport Department is essential to strengthen the licence suspension process. With improved data sharing and accessibility, repeat offenders can be identified and action can be initiated against them.

According to the BTP data reviewed by *The Hindu*, the traffic police issued 3,475 challans to violators in January, 3,141 in February, and 3,170 in March. The total number of challans stood at 9,794, over 2,600 more than in the corresponding period of 2025.

Between January and the end of March in 2025, the BTP issued 7,100 challans. In 2023, 2022, and 2021, the number of challans issued in the same period was less than 4,000.

Sahil Bagla, Deputy Commissioner of Police, East (Traffic), said that drunk driving drives have been extended to more days. The BTP conducts these drives from Thursday to Sunday across all police station limits.

"In addition, in police station limits that witness a higher number of accidents, such as J.B. Nagar, K.R. Puram, Yelahanka, and others, drives are conducted throughout the week," he said.

Gopal M. Byakod, DCP South (Traffic), said that the locations for drunk driving tests are selected strategically based on multiple factors.

"For instance, people try to use alternate roads to evade police at traditional checkpoints. So now we are targeting these alternate routes as well," he said. "Even the deployment arrangements and plans have changed, making it difficult for violators to evade checkpoints," he added.

Bengalureans can therefore expect to see more drunk driving enforcement drives across the city, not just at traditional spots, but also at new locations.

Goods worth crores destroyed in warehouse fire

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A massive fire broke out at a warehouse of an e-commerce company due to suspected short circuit, and property worth several crores of rupees has been destroyed.

The incident occurred in Madanayakanahalli on Wednesday around 10 p.m. The fire at the warehouse, spread across nearly 1.5 acres, reportedly triggered by a short circuit, quickly engulfed the facility, destroying a large quantity of stored goods. No casualties or injuries were reported.

Thick smoke from the blaze spread across the Nelamangala highway, creating panic in the surrounding areas and making it difficult for firefighters to access the warehouse. Fire and emergency personnel struggled to control the flames and eventually had to demolish the warehouse walls using a backhoe loader to carry out firefighting operations.

Around 10 fire tenders were pressed into service, and officials battled through the night before managing to bring the fire under control. The warehouse was constructed about 18 years ago at a cost of ₹20 crore on the land owned by Padmaraj and was leased to the company. A case has been registered.

Groom-to-be killed in tractor mishap during temple procession

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Preliminary investigations point to negligence on the part of the driver

A 26-year-old man, who was visiting a friend to invite him to his wedding, was killed during a temple procession in the Hulimavu Traffic Police Station limits on the outskirts of the city on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Harish P., a resident of Banashankari. His wedding was scheduled on April 29 and 30.

According to the police, Harish had visited a friend's house in Hulimavu to distribute wedding invitations and stayed back to take part in a local temple fair.

The incident occurred around 5 a.m. during a procession of the deity Muthuraya Swamy.

The police said the idol was being carried on a tractor moving along a sloping road when the driver reportedly lost control. It went down the slope and crushed Harish to a compound wall, leaving him critically injured.

He was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital but succumbed on his way. The driver fled the scene following the accident.

Preliminary investigations point to negligence on the part of the driver. A case has been registered, and efforts are under way to apprehend him.

Following the incident, family members and relatives staged a protest at Freedom Park, demanding strict action against the driver and accountability from the organisers of the procession.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, APR. 10		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:32
RISE	00:44	SET 12:14
SATURDAY, APR. 11		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:32
RISE	01:31	SET 13:08
SUNDAY, APR. 12		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:32
RISE	02:14	SET 14:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	35	20
Bengaluru	35	23

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Stranded tourists rescued from landslide hit North Sikkim

1,321 Over 1,000 stranded tourists were rescued from Lachen in Sikkim's Mangan district, where multiple landslides have snapped road connectivity, officials said on Thursday. The tourists were stranded in Lachen in North Sikkim since April 5. PTI

Percentage decline in India's goods exports during 2025-26

2-3 in per cent. The country's merchandise exports are expected to register a fall of 2-3% in 2025-26 due to global economic uncertainties, aggravated by the West Asia crisis, according to FIEO. FIEO said that the crisis may have led to a decline in shipments by 7-8% in March. PTI

Number of fraud suspects repatriated by Sri Lanka to China

125 Sri Lankan police have repatriated 125 suspected criminals back to China for their involvement in telecom fraud, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) said on Thursday. The suspected criminals had been apprehended during earlier crackdown operations. PTI

Amount approved by Haryana govt. for projects

1,028 in ₹ crore. The Haryana government has granted approval to expenditure of ₹1,028 crore for various projects of more than 10 departments. Approvals were given at a meeting of the High-Powered Purchase Committee. PTI

Number of persons killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon

203 Lebanon's health ministry said on Thursday that at least 203 people were killed in widespread Israeli strikes in central Beirut and other areas of Lebanon on Wednesday. It said more than 1,000 were wounded. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What does the Jan Vishwas Bill do?

What does the Jan Vishwas Bill propose? Which offences are being decriminalised? Why remove jail terms for minor lapses? How does the Bill ensure proportionality? How will penalties be structured?

EXPLAINER

G.S. Bajpai

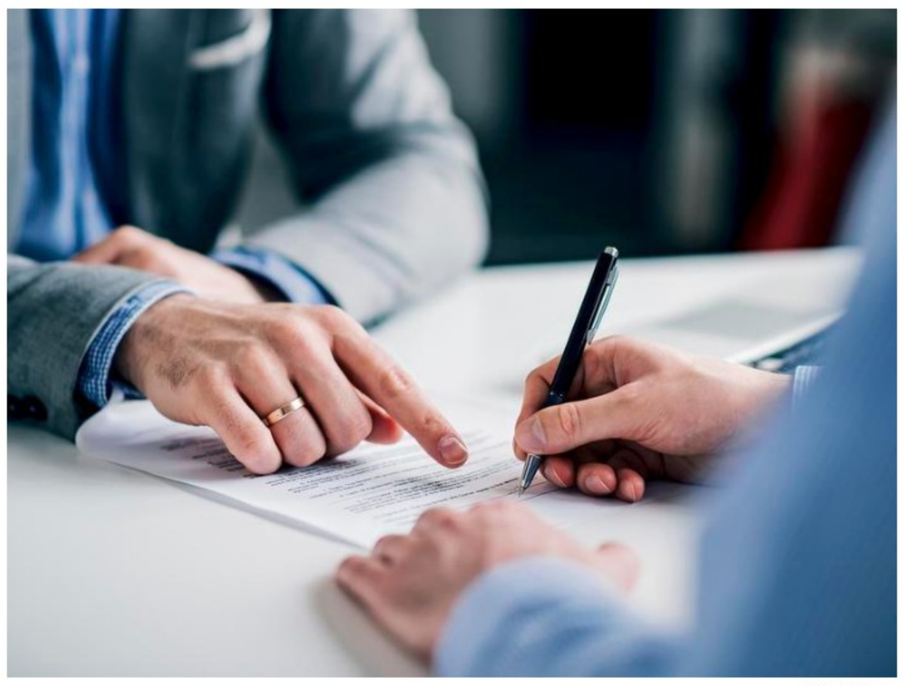
The story so far:
Unnecessary criminalisation is an anathema to business regulations. India's regulatory framework has significant punitive aspects. Under dozens of Central Acts, minor procedural lapses, missed filings, or technical defaults could land a citizen or a small business owner in jail. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025-26, seeks to shift India's regulatory approach from a punitive model to "trust-based governance." It builds on the earlier Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, which decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 Central laws.

Why is the Bill being introduced?
The 2026 Bill proposes amendments to 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries. Of these, 717 provisions are earmarked for decriminalisation, while the rest address ease of living more broadly. Its governing principle is proportionality – the severity of the State's response must bear a rational relationship to the gravity of the conduct it targets.

The Bill pursues three related goals, all rooted in ensuring proportionality in regulation.

First, it seeks a principled separation between conduct that warrants criminal sanction, such as fraud, wilful evasion, and threats to public safety, and procedural non-compliance that carries no comparable moral charge. Conflating the two does a disservice to the seriousness of the former and an injustice to those caught by the latter.

The second objective is equity. Smaller enterprises and MSMEs are disproportionately exposed to compliance risks, not because they violate laws more often, but because they lack the capacity to absorb the consequences when accused of doing so. The idea is to make compliance simpler.



GETTY IMAGES

Third, it seeks to provide institutional relief. India's district and subordinate courts carry over 4.8 crore pending cases (NJDG, December 2025), a significant share of which consists of minor regulatory matters. Decriminalising such cases is not leniency but a rational reallocation of judicial resources.

What are the key features?
The Bill focuses on removing the criminal liability clause for minor procedural lapses and improving the ease of doing business and living.

Its central mechanism is the replacement of criminal penalties with civil and administrative alternatives. The measures on imprisonment provisions are intended to be replaced by monetary penalties calibrated to the gravity of the violation.

For minor or first-time defaults, graded responses such as warnings and advisory notices replace prosecution. Compounding provisions are expanded to provide faster resolution without full adjudication.

Adjudicating officers are empowered to decide cases within defined timelines, with appellate mechanisms to ensure fairness. Penalties are to be periodically revised to retain their deterrent value, and the Bill emphasises digitisation and procedural simplification to reduce inconsistencies in enforcement.

How does it impact institutions?
For the judiciary, the most immediate consequence is meaningful relief. Diverting routine regulatory cases from criminal dockets should free courts to concentrate on matters of genuine public significance.

For regulatory agencies, the Bill increases responsibility. Administrative adjudication is faster and less resource-intensive than criminal prosecution, but it requires institutional capacity, clear guidelines, and oversight mechanisms to avoid arbitrariness. The appellate structures built into the Bill acknowledge this risk, and hence, their effectiveness will depend entirely on how seriously they are operationalised.

For businesses, particularly MSMEs, reduced criminal exposure could meaningfully shift the calculus around formalisation. The fear of prosecution, even where the underlying conduct is technical rather than intentional, has long acted as a disincentive to transparency and engagement with the formal economy.

How does the Bill promote efficient justice?
The indiscriminate use of criminal sanctions – treating a tax fraudster and a businessperson who faltered on a procedural formality – undermines the law's pragmatism. By reserving criminal liability for conduct involving genuine intent or harm, and channelling procedural defaults through civil mechanisms, the Bill narrows the scope for over-criminalisation in a structured way.

A more predictable regulatory environment encourages voluntary compliance. When the consequence of a minor lapse is a proportionate penalty rather than the spectre of prosecution, the incentive structure shifts towards transparency. The durability of these gains will depend on implementation. Enhanced administrative discretion must be matched with clear guidelines, meaningful oversight, and appellate mechanisms that function as genuine checks.

The Jan Vishwas Bill is a serious and overdue reform. Its success will depend less on what it says than on whether the institutions tasked with carrying it forward are genuinely equipped, and held accountable, to do so.

There is a risk of excessive discretion in administrative authorities, weak appellate safeguards in some sectors, the possibility that monetary penalties may replace criminalisation without reducing the burden, and limited clarity on uniform standards across different laws.

(The author is the Vice Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi. Contributions of Vibhuti Sharma, Academic Fellow, NLU Delhi, are acknowledged)

THE GIST

- The Bill seeks to shift India's regulatory framework from a punitive model to 'trust-based governance' by decriminalising minor procedural lapses and ensuring proportionality between the gravity of conduct and the State's response.
- It also aims to promote ease of doing business and living, reduce burden on courts through civil and administrative alternatives, while raising concerns about administrative discretion, appellate safeguards, and implementation gaps.

How will Gaganyaan astronauts return safely to earth?

Why can't parachutes alone ensure a safe landing? How does Gaganyaan module lose its enormous speed?

Unnikrishnan Nair S.

The story so far:
The Gaganyaan crew module, which will host the Indian astronauts on their human spaceflight mission, will orbit the earth at about 7,800 m/s. When it re-enters the atmosphere, it will have to shed its kinetic energy. The atmospheric drag itself will be the primary brake, taking away most of its energy in a process called aerobraking. To further reduce the module's velocity for a soft landing, a multi-stage parachute system will be deployed once the module comes within 12 km of the ground. A typical recovery system includes all the items required to soft-land the module in sea or on land after aerobraking. This includes parachutes, locating devices to find out where the module has splashed down, and a system to ensure the module is pointing in a favourable direction in case it drops in the sea. For touchdown on land, apart from parachutes, the recovery system will fire braking motors to reduce the impact velocity before touchdown. The Russian Soyuz and Chinese Shenzhou modules are designed for terrestrial landing and use retro-rockets for braking.

Why do parachutes alone not suffice?
As the land is hard, touching down on land needs to be around 1-2 m/s. The module can, however, tolerate landing at around 7-9 m/s in the sea, as water is a natural energy absorber.

Land touchdowns also require vast, empty territories free of people or buildings, while offering easier crew recovery and quicker refurbishing of the module.

Sea landings are preferred by countries that lack large deserts or plains. However, it requires recovery ships, flotation bags, and specialised gear to keep the crew safe in rough waters.

Reducing a module's velocity to less than 2 m/s using parachutes alone is impractical due to the inverse-square relationship between speed and drag area. To slow a module from 7 m/s to 1 m/s, the parachute will have to be roughly 49x larger, incurring a large weight and volume penalty.

A parachute that large would also be difficult to deploy without tangling.

Why is the landing zone elliptical?
When a module returns to the earth, it doesn't aim for a bull's-eye but rather a large ellipse. This is because the module's kinetic energy is concentrated almost entirely along its flight track. At hypersonic speeds, minor fluctuations in atmospheric density or re-entry conditions like velocity can cause the module to over- or undershoot its target by hundreds of kilometres.

In contrast, energy available to make any significant path changes in a direction sideways to its track is very low and hence lateral deviations are minimal. The result is a landing footprint significantly elongated along the path of travel.

Once a module is in the water, recovery teams use predictive tracking, electronic signalling, and visual aids to find it. The module transmits its GPS coordinates and homing signals to satellites and aircraft and also releases a bright green fluorescent dye.

If the splashdown is at night or in low visibility, flashing from high-intensity strobe lights from the module will be used to locate it. To ensure it stands out against the deep indigo colour of the water, the module and its flotation bags are painted international orange.

How will the Gaganyaan crew module be recovered?
The Gaganyaan recovery operation will be led by the Indian Navy, plus other stakeholders. After the module is slowed by parachutes, it will splash down in the Bay of Bengal. Immediately after, the parachutes will be released to avoid any entanglement and the flotation bags will automatically inflate.

Once naval divers find and secure the module with a flotation collar and towing gear, it will be winched onto a ship's deck to safely extract the crew.

(Unnikrishnan Nair S. is former director, VSSC and IIST; founding director, HSFC; and an expert in launch vehicle systems, orbital re-entry and human spaceflight technologies: Currently Dr Sarabhai Professor at VSSC)

THE GIST

- The crew module sheds most of its kinetic energy through aerobraking, with atmospheric drag acting as the primary brake, followed by a multi-stage parachute system and, for land touchdowns, braking motors to ensure a soft landing.
- Due to high re-entry speeds and limited lateral control, the landing zone is an elongated ellipse, and recovery involves locating devices, GPS signals, and Indian Navy-led operations after splashdown in the Bay of Bengal.

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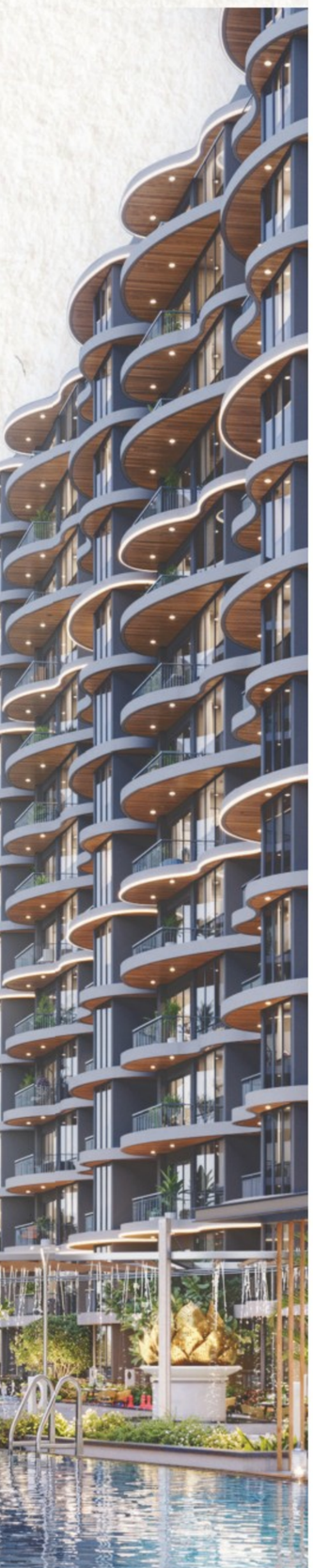

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INBRIEF

Annual exam-2 from April 30

The annual exam-2 for II PUC will be held from April 30 to May 13. Those who wish to improve their marks and those who have not cleared the exams can appear.

This year a total of 16,653 students were absent for the exams.

Those who want a scanned copy of their answer scripts of exam 1 can apply from April 10 to 15, can download the scanned copy from April 12 to 17 and can apply for revaluation and re-totaling between April 13 and 19.

No annual exam-3

There will be no annual exam-3 for this year as the results have been good.

Explaining this, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said, "The result of exam-1 is satisfactory compared to the previous year's result. During 2025, the improvement in results was 8% in exam-2 and it was 1.8% in exam-3. The results of this year are more than the total results of the three exams put together in 2024-25. Therefore, we are not conducting exam-3 this year."

However, the students will be given five days extra time for the preparation of exam-2, he added.

No physical marks card from next year

For the first time, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has provided a digital marks sheet for II PUC students this year and the results were sent via WhatsApp and SMS. The marks cards were uploaded on their digiLocker accounts. This year along with digital marks sheets, physical marks sheets will also be provided.

However, the government has decided to provide only digital marks sheets from the next academic year onwards. There will be no physical marks cards from next year.

Toppers from DK, Udupi

As many as 36 students from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts appear in the toppers' list of 94 students, with the first four toppers in Arts and first three in Commerce and Science streams, released by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board. Of them, two out of 30 are in Arts stream, 14 out of 32 in Commerce stream and 20 out of 32 are in Science stream.

State records 'historic' 86.48 pass percentage for freshers

Of the 6,48,853 students who registered, 5,46,698 students passed the exam across Science, Commerce, and Arts streams

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This academic year, Karnataka has achieved "historic" results of 86.48% among freshers in the II PUC annual examination-1, as against 73.45% last year. However, the results including repeaters, private candidates apart from freshers stands at 81.58%, up from 69.16% last year, when it recorded a big dip.

The passing marks were reduced from 35 to 33 this academic year which seems to have helped boost the results. However, Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy, announcing the results on Thursday, said only 5,575 students have benefitted from decrease in passing marks to 33 and said a host of other reasons have contributed to the good results.

"The impact of several pro-active measures like timely completion of syllabus, early appointment of guest lecturers, subject-wise blueprint and model question papers, exhaustive question banks, capacity building of lecturers, specialised online training through DSERT, focused interventions in Kalyana Karnataka region, State-level preparatory examinations, mega parents-teachers meeting, State-wide academic monitoring through audio conference, deadline for teachers to complete the syllabus by December and to conduct revision exercises, is reflected in the results this year," he said.

Udupi district topped the State with 96.39% results, followed by Dakshina Kannada with 96.35% and Kodagu with 92.34% results. Kalyana Karnataka districts continue to remain at the bottom of the table, with Yadgir being the lowest with 71.21% results, followed by Raichur with 74.09% and Gadag 76.65%.

This year, the result of rural students is higher than their urban counterparts. While urban students have achieved 85.95% results, rural students have achieved 87.62% results.

This year too, the pass percentage of girls is higher than boys. A total of 3,13,770 (88.70%) girls passed against 2,32,928 (83.65%) boys. Not just that, all six toppers across the three streams are girls this year.

Among the top ten scorers, in Arts stream all the top ten scorers were girls and in Science, it was eight and in Commerce, seven were girls.

According to the data released by Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) on freshers, in the Arts stream 98,310 (72.86%) students, 1,82,317 (88.04%) in Commerce and 2,66,071 (91.69%) students in Science stream have passed.

Private unaided colleges continue to perform better and this year they have achieved a 90.73% as against the 82.91% by aided and 78.72% by government PU colleges.

Increase in distinctions

The number of students who achieved distinction (85%and above) has increased from 1,00,571 last year to 1,70,529 this year. A total of 2,95,385 passed with first class (below 85% and 60% and above) and the number of students cleared with Second class (below 60% and 50% and above) declined a bit from 70,969 to 63,957. Even there is a slight dip in pass (Pass with below 50%) from 18,845 to 16,827 this year.

This year the highest number of centum scorers, 10,982, were in Mathematics, followed by 6,232 in Computer Science, 6,060 in Sanskrit, 5,542 in Business Studies, 5,228 in Kannada and 3,224 in Physics.

This year, the results of rural students is higher than their urban counterparts. FILE PHOTO

II PU RESULTS

II PU freshers result details

Total students eligible for the examination	Total students attended the examination	Total students absent in all the subjects	Total number of students passed in the examination
6,48,853	6,32,200	16,653	5,46,698

Students type-wise overall result

Student Type	Appeared	Passed	Pass percentage
Fresher	6,32,200	5,46,698	86.48
Repeaters	50,097	14,527	29.00
Private candidates	12,248	5,383	43.95
Total	6,94,545	5,66,608	81.58

Combination wise results

Combination	Appeared	Passed	Pass percentage
Arts	1,34,921	98,310	72.86
Commerce	2,07,085	1,82,317	88.04
Science	2,90,194	2,66,071	91.69
Total	6,32,200	5,46,698	86.48

District-wise percentage of results

Top five districts	
Udupi	96.39
Dakshina Kannada	96.35
Kodagu	92.34
Vijayapura	92
Uttara Kannada	91.78
Bottom five districts	
Yadgir	71.21
Raichur	74.09
Gadag	76.65
Kalaburagi	76.97
Ballari	78.69

Ankit Bhimappa Karatagi

Son of daily wage labourer gets second rank in Science stream

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Ankit Bhimappa Karatagi, son of a daily wage labourer, secured second rank in the State in Science stream in the II PU examination, by scoring 598 out of 600 marks.

The student of Morarji Desai Residential Science Pre-University College in Nidasosi near Hukkeri in Belagavi ditrict, Karatagi scored 100 marks in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Kannada and 98 in English.

His father, Bhimappa, works as a labourer in a cement shop in Chikkodi. His mother, Sunita, is a homemaker. The family hails from Rajapur village in Gokak taluk.

He said he was expecting 100 marks in all subjects, but was sad to lose two marks in English.

"I used to practice for upto six to eight hours every day. Challenges faced by my family motivated me to study hard. I thank my parents and teachers and the government for the facilities created in the residential college," he said.

Karatagi plans to study Computer Science and become an IT engineer in the field of artificial intelligence.

Disha Poojary

Adithi A. Bapu

Princilla Cardoza

Archana D.M.

Sangeeta

Shrusti Mallinath Patil

Across all streams, it is girls who are on the top

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Girls have emerged State toppers in this year's II PU results across all streams in the State.

In Dakshina Kannada, Disha Poojary of Alva's PU College, Moodbidri, scored a perfect 600 in the Commerce stream, a feat she describes as a tribute to her mother, Savita, who passed away on March 2, in the middle of her examinations. After writing two papers, she lost her mother a day before her English exam. "A lecturer took me home, and my teachers supported me through the grief so I could continue writing the remaining papers," she said. The eldest daughter of a real estate businessman, she chose to push through the loss, determined not to let go of the opportunity. She now aspires to become a Chartered Accountant and is preparing for the CA Foundation course.

In Bengaluru, Adithi A. Bapu, another Commerce topper with a perfect 600, said while she expected to be among the State's top scorers, achieving full marks in every subject still came as a surprise. A student of S.B. Mahaveer Jain PU College, she balanced her board preparation with CA Foundation studies.

Rather than adhering to strict study hours, Bapu focused on daily revision. "Every morning, I would revise what was taught the previous day," she said, adding that solving previous years' question papers played a key role. While she enjoyed all subjects, she noted that theory papers required more effort, whereas practical subjects were her strength. In the Science stream, Princilla Cardoza of The Learning Centre PU College, Mangaluru, secured 599 marks, emerging as the State topper. Her preparation, however, was largely aligned with the IIT-JEE Main. Having already scored 98.8 percentile in the first session, she devoted most of her time to entrance preparation, setting aside focused time for PU exams closer to the board schedule. The youngest daughter in the family, Cardoza now aims to pursue BTech in Artificial Intelligence or Computer Science, at NITK Surathkal. The Arts stream saw a complete dominance from the Kalyana Karnataka region, where all three State toppers- Archana D.M., Sangeeta, and Shrusti Mallinath Patil- scored 598 out of 600.

Archana and Sangeeta, both from Indu PU College in Kottur of Vijayanagara district, come from farming families.

Daughter of a farmer, Archana, a resident of Baliganur village, travelled 8 km daily by government bus to attend classes. She maintained a rigorous routine, waking up at 4 a.m. to study and continuing late into the night. She credits sustained discipline and teacher support for her success and now aims to become a KAS officer.

Sangeeta, from Koppal district, stayed in the college hostel and studied around five hours daily outside class. Backed by her family and teachers, she now plans to pursue law and become a lawyer.

Shrusti Mallinath Patil from Smt. V.G. PU College for Women in Kalaburagi said topping the State took time to sink in.

Life convict scores 80.1% in II PU exam

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

In an inspiring example of determination overcoming adversity, a life convict lodged in Ballari Central Prison has secured 80.1% marks in the II PU examination.

Ashok Kumar S., who appeared for the examination under prison escort, scored 481 out of 600 marks and passed in First Class, according to his marks card released by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board. He scored 82 marks in Kannada and 69 in English. In the core subjects, he secured 94 in History, 84 in Economics, 77 in Sociology and 75 in Political Science. Director-General of Police (Prisons and Correctional Services) Alok Kumar lauded the achievement in a post on X, describing it as a sign of hope and transformation.

"It is heartening to see that one of our life convict prisoners, Ashok, has obtained 80.1% marks in the PU exam. He appeared under prison escort from Ballari Central Prison for his exam... Glad to see that the walls of the prison have not subdued his hopes for a better future," he said.

According to prison authorities, 27-year-old Ashok Kumar, who is serving a life sentence in a murder case, has been lodged in Ballari Central Prison for the past nine years.

Acting on his request to pursue studies, the prison administration sought permission from the Director-General of Police (Prisons and Correctional Services) to enable him to register for the examination.

Following approval, he was allowed to pay the examination fee. He was provided with study material and accommodated in a separate cell to prepare for the examination. He was escorted to the examination centre under supervision.

Immersive design through the lens of ecological regeneration

Coral reefs, made of crocheted paper, on display at the Science Gallery Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a dimly lit room giant "coral reefs", made of 30 km of meticulously crocheted paper, stand illuminated with a purple-blue fluorescent light to symbolise the "tipping point" of these vulnerable sea creatures: their last cry before they die. The travelling exhibition titled 'IMAGINE: Coral Reef', at the Science Gallery Bengaluru, is curated by the Institute of Design Research, Vienna, and hopes that research-driven narratives offer a glimpse into both beauty and fragility of coral ecosystems, often described as the "rainforests of the sea" for the remarkable biodiversity they support.

Inspired by one of nature's most complex ecosystems, the installations rethinks design through the lens of regeneration and reflects on innovative approaches to ecological responsibility.

The exhibition aims to spark conversations, especially among the youth, around design, ecology, and our shared environmental future.

Jahnavi Phalkey, founding director of the Science Gallery Bengaluru, said that the endeavour brought scholars and artists together.

Lotte Kristoferitsch, the curator, said it was ironical that Austria, a landlocked nation, should embark on such a project, "but climate change is affecting all of us" and coral bleaching is concerning for the entire planet.

The Science Gallery Bengaluru is a not-for-profit public institution for research-based engagement targeted at young adults working at the intersection of the human, natural, and social sciences, and engineering, art, and design.

The exhibition was brought to India by the Austrian Cultural Forum New Delhi and is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and will run until May 14.

‘The political system of Cuba is not on the table in any dialogue with the U.S.’

Cuba is facing a severe economic crisis triggered by fuel shortages and U.S. sanctions, with prolonged blackouts and disruptions to daily life; the Cuban Ambassador to India, Juan Carlos Marsan, says the blockade has affected all sectors, even as they remain open to dialogue

INTERVIEW

Juan Carlos Marsan

Srinivasan Ramani

Cuba is facing its most severe economic crisis in a long time. U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration, emboldened by their military intervention and abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in January, have imposed a *de facto* naval blockade on the island. Mr. Trump has spoken openly of “taking Cuba” and having a “friendly takeover,” while Secretary of State Marco Rubio has called for regime change. Negotiations between the two governments are under way, but Cuba’s leadership has said that its political system is not up for negotiation. Cuba’s Ambassador to India, Juan Carlos Marsan, speaks about the impact of the blockade, the country’s economic challenges, and the prospects for dialogue. Edited excerpts:

The U.S. has imposed what amounts to a naval blockade on Cuba, interdicting oil tankers since late 2025 and threatening tariffs on any country selling oil to Cuba. For three months, Cuba did not receive any energy shipments. You have also had the electricity grid collapse due to this. How has this blockade affected the Cuban economy and the daily lives of ordinary Cubans?

We should remember that the blockade didn’t start now. We have been subject to this discriminatory policy for more than 65 years. But it is true that the blockade has been driven to unprecedented limits. In Trump’s first term, they adopted more than 240 different measures to strangle the Cuban economy, and during this term, they have already taken more than 100 additional measures against Cuba.

They have included Cuba on the list of state sponsors of terrorism. This is farcical because Cuba has been a victim of terrorist actions committed from the U.S. They are also blocking all opportunities for Cuban Americans living in the U.S. to send remittances to their relatives in Cuba. We have almost 1.5 million Cubans living in the U.S., and they used to send support to their relatives – it happens in all other Latin American countries – but in the case of Cuba, there is no legal channel to send these remittances because they have blocked this possibility. They are also obstructing all possibilities for Americans or even Cuban Americans to travel to Cuba freely.

On January 29, President Trump signed an executive order imposing this blockade on all oil supplies to Cuba. Cuba is only producing 20% of the oil we require. 40% of the total electricity supply is covered by Cuban oil, but the rest – which is significant – we are not self-sufficient in. In healthcare, for example, we have more than 100,000 patients waiting for medical surgery, and we don’t have the possibility because we don’t have electricity in hospitals to fulfil these needs. In education, if you don’t have transportation, you cannot move from your neighbourhood to the university or educational centres. In food production, 40% of Cuba’s productive land isn’t producing because we don’t have sufficient oil for irrigation.

In electricity, we can only cover less than 50% of the total energy demand. The system is very weak, and sometimes we have total blackouts. There is also a huge impact on the water supply. More than two million people do not have frequent water service to their houses.

If you ask me how we can resist – there is a resilience of the Cuban people because of this policy lasting more than 60 years. It is difficult, but they manage to collect the necessary resources at the community level. The state is also working to protect people in need, facilitating medical assistance and food distribution. But, unfortunately, the full population must suffer these consequences.

How have the U.S.’s extraterritorial sanctions affected Cuba’s ability to trade, access international banking, and attract investment from the rest of the world?

No doubt, the blockade is the main obstacle to the economic and social development of our country. The inclusion of Cuba on this list of countries that supposedly sponsor terrorism imposes many limitations on Cuba’s connection to the international financial system. We cannot receive credits, loans, or access any international banks. We are not a member of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, or even the Inter-American Development Bank, because the U.S. has blocked Cuba’s access. We don’t have direct banking connections with many countries because they are afraid of suffering sanctions from the U.S. We cannot make any transactions in dollars. Many tourists who come to Cuba spend dollars, but how can we use these dollars to connect with the international financial system? Americans – if they go to Cuba – cannot spend money in our country, cannot use their banking cards.

This administration has also brought into force Chapters Three and Four of the Helms-Burton law. Now, some Americans who claim properties they had in Cuba before the Revolution – which were nationalised – can start presenting demands in U.S. courts against any company in the world that is investing in or working with Cuba. The main idea is to try to prevent foreign investment in our country. This has an enormous impact across all sectors of the Cuban economy. For example, Americans cannot travel to Cuba, and in the case of Europeans, it is difficult for them because if they go to Cuba they risk losing the opportunity to apply for a U.S. visa. So they are scared. Before COVID, we were almost reaching 5 million visitors. Tourism was the main sector in terms of financial income. Today it is not more than 2.2 million. Some Canadian airlines have suspended flights because we cannot refuel aircraft in Cuba, and Canada is the first source of tourists to Cuba.

Ten years ago, President Barack Obama visited Cuba and met President Raúl Castro. There was genuine hope of normalisation. But as soon as President Trump came to power, he reversed course and tightened sanctions, and now in his second term, he is talking about “taking Cuba.” What explains this hostility, decades after the Cold War?

Recently, they have launched some important concepts – for example, “peace through force.” Also, the idea of applying once again the Monroe Doctrine, which means that all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean should be submitted to U.S. interests, and no other power in the world could be present in Latin America if they feel that these powers are threatening U.S. dominance.

Cuba is a country that has always raised its voice defending the right of peoples to self-determination, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity – concepts included in the United Nations Charter. Cuba also speaks in favour of the entire Global South, defending the rights of our countries. Maybe this position is not in the interests of the U.S. – to have one small country, just 90 miles away, an island of no more than 10 million people, that cannot accept the concept of U.S. dominance in our region.

But the period of Obama showed that there is a possibility for a new approach. If you ask me whether Obama would have liked Cuba to remain socialist and independent – maybe not. But they thought there was no excuse to impose such a strong blockade on a country and to have people suffering the consequences. So they tried a softer approach. Apart from the profound differences between Cuba and the U.S., we were able to discuss and find some agreements. We established more than 20 bilateral commissions working in different areas of interest to both sides.

To approach Cuba through coercion won’t be successful, because Cuba has been independent for 65 years, and it took more than two centuries to reach our independence.

Even so, we are in a position to talk, to dialogue, to continue dialogue with this U.S. administration. Trump said he will “take Cuba.” My dear friend, Cuba is not a piece of cake that you can take. Cuba is a nation, very proud of its history, with a very high level of education. The Revolution has given the Cuban people free access to education, healthcare, security, sport, and culture. The people will defend their homeland. They will not surrender. The U.S. should take this into consideration. But there are other ways to solve our differences – to approach Cuba and the U.S. through dialogue.

Venezuela and Cuba had a decades-old partnership. Venezuela supplied Cuba roughly 100,000 barrels of oil per day in exchange for thousands of Cuban medicos who staffed clinics. Now Venezuela seems to be under U.S. control in terms of oil shipments. How has this affected the Venezuela-Cuba partnership?

First of all, Cuba and Venezuela have a long-standing relationship, not only since the time of Hugo Chávez. The national hero of Cuba, José Martí, visited Venezuela in the 19th century to pay tribute to Bolívar, the liberator of Latin America.

After the election of Chávez in 1998, we started a new era in our bilateral relations. Cuba supported Venezuela a great deal – providing doctors and professors in many specialties. We developed very important social programmes, teaching people to read and write, for example. We opened medical centres in different provinces. Many Venezuelan people went to Cuba to study as doctors in our universities. So there is a strong connection between the two peoples. We can understand that they are living in a very difficult situation. There has been a change in Venezuela.

Venezuela was the first supplier of oil to Cuba, and the U.S. was looking not only to control the huge oil reserves in Venezuela but also to interrupt the oil supply to our country. Of course, we had other suppliers – Mexico provided 40% of the oil, and Russia as well. But the executive order of Trump on January 29 imposed 25% tariffs on countries that supply oil to Cuba. People are trying to avoid these sanctions. Mexico is quite dependent economically on the U.S. – we can understand. But even in this situation, the Mexican government has sent much humanitarian support to Cuba in food, medical equipment, and other areas, and we are very grateful for this solidarity.

Recently, a ship from Russia arrived in Cuba with 700,000 tonnes of oil. It is a major support at this moment, because for more than three months we were not receiving a single drop of oil. Russia has said they will continue supporting Cuba.

I am sure that Cuba and Venezuela will continue to develop a strong relationship based on mutual respect, cooperation, and solidarity between the two countries.

Cuba has had very strong relations with not only Latin America but the rest of the Global South. What do you expect from the Global South as a reaction to this blockade?

For more than three decades the United Nations General Assembly has voted in favour of the Cuban resolution condemning the U.S. blockade.

We have called on the international community – not only for Cuba, but in general – for unity to defend international law, the role of the United Nations, and the principles contained in the UN Charter. Because yesterday it was Venezuela, today it is Iran, tomorrow it could be Cuba – what would be next? Any country that goes against U.S. interests, or whose strategic natural resources the U.S. wants to control. Every country should be united in defending these principles of international law.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries should be united in CELAC – the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States – to raise our own voice and defend our right to define what future we would like for our societies.

Your government in recent years has begun allowing private enterprises and is opening the door to diaspora investment. Do you think these reforms will serve Cuba’s development priorities?

The Cuban population supported the new constitution that was submitted to consultation in 2019. In this constitution, we recognise the socialist character of the Cuban Revolution, and we will continue trying to preserve the people’s social conquests and the unity of our society. But within this concept, we should also find solutions to our economic problems. We should be very smart in order to make decisions that allow Cuba to incorporate itself into the international market.

Following the idea that we must change everything that has to be changed in order to develop our economy and society, we have adopted new measures to allow foreign investment to participate in our economic and social development strategy. We are opening different sectors – for example, in agriculture. We have high-quality land and soil in Cuba, but we cannot produce on all of it because we don’t have the financial resources. We are calling on different companies to participate in food production. We can share the profits – 50% can remain in Cuba to supply the internal market, and the rest could be exported. You may say we are making concessions – no, we are very pragmatic.

We are also opening a new economic development zone near Havana, in Mariel, to connect Cuba with Latin American countries. In sugar cane production, Cuba was a leader in the 1970s. Now we require investment to capitalise the industry and are offering opportunities to international partners. The same applies in mining, tourism, and energy. Cuba is in the process of energy transition – we have a clear strategy to 2030 and beyond to 2045 to achieve energy sovereignty, and we are looking for partners. In all these sectors, India could play a role as a partner to achieve these goals. We are very active – promoting economic cooperation between the two countries is one of the most important missions of the Cuban embassy here.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel has confirmed that negotiations with Washington are under way, and you have also released prisoners with Vatican mediation in recent months. Yet the Trump administration says this is “not dramatic enough,” they are suggesting they want the President removed. What exactly is on the table in these negotiations, and what are Cuba’s red lines?

It is a very sensitive issue, and I don’t have all the information to provide to you. But as has been said by our President, Cuba has not only shown its disposition to start a dialogue – we are at the dialogue table with the U.S. authorities. Even with the huge differences that we have, we can find solutions that benefit both sides – for example, in combating trafficking in persons in the Caribbean, combating terrorism, combating drugs, or preserving the environment.

We have also opened the possibility for not only Cuban Americans but also American companies to participate in the Cuban economy – as we offer to any other country in the world.

But the political system and the composition of the Cuban government is not on the table. We have been very clear – it belongs to the Cuban people to define what kind of society we would like to live in, and who are the appropriate people to lead our country.

We are not setting the same conditions for dialogue with the U.S. We are not saying that President Trump should not be leading his country, or that the U.S. Secretary of State should be another one. This dialogue should be based on mutual respect, be serious and responsible. We cannot accept political conditions from the other side. This is a very clear position of our leadership and of our people in Cuba.

(Full interview on: newsth.live/juancarlosmarsan)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the origin and meaning of the expression “to bite the bullet”? (Aparna Ramachandra Iyer, Hyderabad)

Every year, after the budget speech, the Finance Minister invariably tells us to “bite the bullet”. Perhaps it’s his way of ensuring that we get the required iron into our system! What does he mean by “to bite the bullet”? What is it that you normally do when you are in terrible pain? You usually clench your fist, grit your teeth, or bite on something. By doing all these things you don’t get rid of the pain, you merely lessen it. When the pain becomes acute, it is possible these days to take a painkiller. But in the old days, there were no painkillers. When doctors operated on patients, they didn’t give them anesthesia, they merely gave them something to bite on – a piece of wood or a piece of iron. This was done to help the patient endure the pain, not to get rid of it. Having something in the mouth also prevented the patient from screaming, to the doctor’s ears. During wars, when soldiers had to be operated on, doctors usually gave them – you guessed it – a bullet to bite on. So when someone asks you to “bite the bullet”, they want you to accept something difficult or unpleasant and endure it. In other words, to put up with a bad situation.

Isn’t there a difference between “the officer concerned” and “the concerned officer”? (K. G. Chandrasekharan, Cochin)

Yes, there is. When you talk about the “concerned officer”, you are talking about the officer who is worried. The man is concerned or worried about something. When there is a plane or train accident, you will have concerned relatives/ friends ringing up the airport or the railway station. When you talk about the “officer concerned”, you are talking about the officer who is in charge of a particular department/section. For example, you might go to the sanitation department and meet the officer concerned. In other words, you meet the officer in the sanitation department who deals in the matter that you are interested in.

Which of the following sentences is correct? “I met him one and a half years ago”, or, “I met him one and a half years ago”? (S. Shyam Sundar, Tirupati)

The rule is fairly simple. In sentences like the above, we use the plural noun with fractions and decimals over 1 (one).

What does the abbreviation SWOT stand for? (R. Padma, Bangalore)

SWOT is an acronym for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. I understand it is a formula used in marketing analysis of new products.

How do you greet someone on his/her wedding anniversary? Is it O.K to say “Many happy returns of the day”? (M. T. Charli, Bangalore)

The usual greeting is “Happy wedding anniversary”, or, “Happy anniversary”. Both are equally acceptable. I have heard people saying “Many happy returns of the day”. Though this may strike one as being odd, some native speakers accept it. Dictionaries however contend that “Many happy returns of the day” should be restricted to birthdays.

Published in The Hindu on April 4, 2000

Word of the day

Guffaw:
a burst of deep loud hearty laughter

Synonyms: chuckle, giggle, cackle

Usage: *His ridiculous excuse made everyone guffaw.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/guffaw

International Phonetic Alphabet: /gʌfɔː/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Text & Context’

Monitoring West Asia conflict on a 24x7 basis like a hawk: Navy chief

'The Indian Navy is also monitoring the positioning of the U.S. Carrier battle group and the two amphibious ready groups'

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi on Thursday said that the Indian Navy are monitoring the ongoing conflict in West Asia on a 24x7 basis.

Speaking at the inaugural day of the tri-service seminar, Ran Samwad, which is being held in Bengaluru, Admiral Tripathi said that it is too early to comment on the lessons learnt from the conflict, however the navy is monitoring what is happening.

"We are monitoring like a hawk what is happening, what is working, what is not working, what we can imbibe from, what is to be done and more importantly what is not to be done. So that part is being collated. But to say that we have learned certain lessons is too early because the war is still going on and the kinetic actions have not stopped notwithstanding what tweets have gone out," he said. Admiral Tripathi said that the Indian Navy was also monitoring the positioning of the U.S. Carrier battle group and also the two amphibious ready groups which the U.S. Navy had deployed during the ongoing West Asia conflict. "A large number of air top operations, a large number of operations which were carried out on land, were launched by this carrier battle group. We monitored them because our ships were deployed there. So we were monitoring how many aircraft were launched in which way etc.," he said.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi addressing a session on 'Maritime Forces Visualisation of MDO' during the 'Ran Samwad 2026', in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Dark vessels

Admiral Tripathi added that the disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz apart from the severe economic consequences, have also led to a significant increase in dark vessels that operate on the seas further highlighting the simultaneity of security, economic, and informational challenges within the maritime domain. Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi said that during Operation Sindoor, the ground intelligence network coupled with cyber and EW inputs gave the joint Army-IAF targeting cycle its precision, while the Navy's repositioning shaped the strategic calculus simultaneously.

"No single domain decided the operation. Each domain created the condition the other needed... and that sequenced, mutually enabling action is the essence of Multi Domain Operations," he said.

He added during the operation nearly 15% of the effort went into managing information warfare.

"The military population today is not just 12 lakh personnel, but 1.3 crore when you include veterans and families. All of them are part of the information space," he said.

HC quashes FIR against drone development company

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has cautioned that police officers who fail to give a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) to accused and other persons concerned in a criminal case would be amenable for departmental inquiry for dereliction of duty. "The law declared by the apex court unequivocally mandates that an accused is entitled to obtain a copy of the FIR without undue delay. Mere assertion that the FIR is uploaded online cannot be a substitute for compliance with the obligation. The denial of essential particulars concerning the FIR renders the rights to access illusory and undermines the very purpose of transparency envisaged by the court," the court said.

Any deviation from the norm of furnishing a copy of the FIR by the police stations "would be viewed seriously" and the station house officers of the police station who do not follow this "will become open to initiation of departmental inquiry", the court clarified. Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing an FIR, registered *suo motu* in January by the Doddaballapur police against Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research and Technologies Private Limited, a private firm engaged in research, development, and testing of drone and unmanned aerial vehicles. It supplies drones to the Indian armed forces and its testing centre is located on a leased land spread over 48 acres in Doddaballapur.

The court has also pulled up the police for failing to furnish a copy of the FIR to the petitioner-company despite repeated requests.

The case was registered under Section 125 (an act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 329(3) (criminal trespass) of the BNS after the police control room received information that a drone was found lying on the neighbouring vacant land. The company claimed that a lightweight drone suffered a battery malfunction during a routine test and glided beyond the boundary of its premises and landed smoothly in a neighbouring property.

'Negligible harm'

The court noted that the FIR conspicuously lacked any allegation of intentional human entry or rash/negligent human act. "Mere recovery of a drone, without anything more, cannot satisfy the ingredients of criminal trespass," the judge observed, adding that the incident constituted a case of "negligible harm" attracting the doctrine of triviality under Section 33 of the BNS.

'61 railway stations across State taken up for redevelopment'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A total of 61 railway stations across Karnataka have been taken up for redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme to provide modern amenities and improve passenger facilities with a total investment of ₹1,981 crore.

Sharing this information with reporters in Mysuru after a Window Trailing Inspection of KSR Bengaluru – Mandya - Mysuru Railway Sections, Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna said the major stations taken up for redevelopment included KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur, and Bengaluru Cantonment. The focus of redevelopment will be on providing modern infrastructure, enhanced passenger amenities, and seamless multimodal integration.

While the allocation for Karnataka's railways for the year 2026-27 has been ₹7,748 crore against ₹ 7,564 crore in 2025-26, Mr. Somanna said railway works worth ₹52,950 crore are currently progressing at various stages across the State.

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, and Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti and V. Somanna conducting a window-trailing inspection on the railway route in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

He noted that Kavach, the indigenous train collision avoidance system, is being implemented across South Western Railway to reinforce safety of train operations.

Out of the five Road Overbridges (ROBs) and one Road Underbridge (RUB) sanctioned on the Bengaluru-Mysuru route, ROB No. 431 on the Bengaluru-Kengeri section has been reconstructed and inaugurated in December 2025. While the ROB at Channapatna Yard (LC No. 47), completed in October 2025 at a cost of ₹20 crore, is scheduled for inauguration shortly, the work on the ROB at Srirangapatna-Pandavapura (LC No. 97) is currently under implementation at an estimated cost of ₹41.14 crore. He said the RUB at Nayandahalli-Kengeri (LC No. 10), worth ₹33.65 crore and ROBs at Settihalli-Nidagatta (LC Nos. 53 & 56) are at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) approval stage.

Meanwhile, a statement from the railways said Mr. Somanna and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy reviewed the progress of infrastructure works and several key operational and safety aspects on the Bengaluru-Mysuru section during the window trailing inspection on Thursday.

Sign language aids police in solving murder case involving speech-and-hearing impaired persons

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Mysuru district police cracked the murder of a speech-and-hearing impaired person by arresting two accused persons with the same disability, with crucial assistance from sign language interpreters. The Nanjangud Rural police initiated an investigation after Savitha from Devaramannahalli Palya lodged a complaint on March 4 that her husband Swamy was missing since February 12.

Wife's complaint

Swamy, who was in his thirties, as well as Savitha are speech and hearing disabled. During the investigation, police examined their mobile phones.

They came across video calls. Police questioned Savitha with the assistance of the sign language interpreters at the Institute for Speech and Hearing in Mysuru.

Experts at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysuru helped the police solve the murder case. FILE PHOTO

Based on Savitha's statement, the police took two persons, namely, Srinivasa, 37, a resident of Hanumanapura village, and Gangadhara, 23, a resident of Amruthur village, both from Kunigal taluk of Tumakuru district, into custody.

As both the suspects are also speech-and-hearing impaired, they were taken to the institute for questioning with the assistance of sign language interpreters.

Interrogation

During the course of the interrogation, the police learnt that Savitha and Swamy had married after falling in love. Later, Savitha came in contact with Srinivasa, who remained in touch with her through video calls. He reportedly developed an interest in Savitha, and even provided financial assistance to her, the police said. Swamy too became acquainted with Srinivasa. He too had borrowed money from Srinivasa.

Srinivasa, who was in love with Savitha, considered Swamy an obstacle, and also suspected that Swamy would not be able to return the money he had borrowed. He allegedly hatched a plot to eliminate Swamy and marry Savitha. He lured Swamy to Amruthur village on February 12 under the pretext of giving him money. There, Srinivasa asked Swamy to join him for a drink. He took Swamy to an agricultural field in Hosapura village, along with Gangadhara and another individual, who is also speech and hearing impaired.

The trio allegedly assaulted Swamy, striking him on the neck and killing him. They tied a stone to his body and threw it in a well. The police, along with an interpreter, went to Hosapura village in Kunigal taluk on Tuesday. The body was recovered from a well identified by the accused. The accused have been remanded in judicial custody as per court orders.

C.G. Srinivasan honoured for contribution to Dalit entrepreneurship

BENGALURU: A felicitation programme was organised on Thursday in Bengaluru for C.G. Srinivasan in recognition of his contribution to social service, industrial development and entrepreneurship among the Dalit commuinities.

Those who participated in the felicitation programme recalled his 17-year contribution to the Karnataka Dalit Entrepreneurs Association (KDEA), focusing on furthering Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of economic self-reliance among Dalit communities. Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai, participating in the function, called Mr. Srinivasan an influential figure even without holding any official position. After resigning from his position as chief manager in the Industries Department, Mr. Srinivasan organised SC/ST entrepreneurs, and has emerged as a powerful personality without holding any formal post, he recalled.

The participants recalled his contributions to the community, including subsidies for industrial land or sheds, interest subsidy loan schemes and 4% interest subsidy schemes extended to select commercial and other activities for loans up to ₹1 crore.

Karnataka includes root canal treatment under AB PMJAY-CM's ArK scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at improving access to dental care and reducing avoidable tooth loss, the Karnataka government has approved the inclusion of root canal treatment (RCT) under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Chief Minister's Arogya Karnataka (AB PMJAY-CM's ArK) scheme. A Government Order (GO) issued on Wednesday provides for the addition of specific procedure codes for root canal treatment under the Dental and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery specialty of the scheme.

The root canal treatment is undertaken to treat infection or inflammation of the dental pulp. If left untreated, it can spread to surrounding tissues, leading to complications such as abscess formation and eventual tooth loss. Officials said the decision is expected to benefit a large number of patients who currently opt for tooth extraction due to the high cost of root canal treatment.

2 procedures notified

The order includes two categories- root canal treatment for anterior teeth and posterior teeth- which have been classified as Complex Secondary Procedures (2B) under the scheme. The Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), the nodal agency that facilitates the scheme, has been directed to adopt Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Tier-3 (non-NABH) rates. Accordingly, the package rate has been fixed at ₹1,360 for anterior teeth and ₹2,040 for posterior teeth, inclusive of all consumables and procedure-related costs.

Addressing the gap

At present, the scheme covers 12 procedures under dental and oral surgery, but does not include root canal treatment. The inclusion follows a proposal submitted by the SAST. Officials noted that preserving natural teeth helps maintain chewing function and avoids the need for costlier interventions.

Cap on cases

The government has capped the benefit at 50,000 cases or a financial outlay of ₹5 crore, whichever is lower. The approval has been granted under powers delegated to the Health Department to include new procedures within a specified budget ceiling. The standard guidelines of the AB PMJAY-CM's ArK scheme will apply to these procedures.

Five cases of children falling victim to online games registered in State in past four years

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

In the last four years, five cases of children falling victim to online games have been registered across Karnataka.

One case was registered in Bengaluru city in 2023, while one each was reported in Chikkamagaluru district in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and one case in Hubballi-Dharwad in 2026, Home Minister G. Parameshwara informed the Karnataka Legislative Council in response to a question from Pratap Simha Nayak K., during the recent Budget session of the Assembly.

Recent case

On March 25, an MBBS student, who was caught in a debt trap due to his online gaming addiction, allegedly died by suicide in his hostel room in Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS).

Parents are being advised and given guidelines to keep their children away from online gaming, says Home Minister G. Parameshwara. GETTY IMAGES

Dr. Parameshwara said that, as announced by the Chief Minister in the State Budget for 2026-27, the use of social media will be banned for children under the age of 16 in order to prevent such cases.

Measures were being taken under provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Karnataka Police Act, 1963, and the Information Technology (IT) Act to control all types of illegal games and gambling, he said. The Union government has implemented the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, and action will be taken under it, he replied.

Dr. Parameshwara said programmes organised by the police department, such as Mane Manege Police and Terada Mane, are also attempting direct communication with children.

"The police are visiting schools and colleges, and conducting awareness programmes about the ill-effects of online games in beat committee meetings and village patrol meetings," he said.

Monitoring platforms

The Minister further stated that action will be taken to make gaming platforms obtain licences and remove unauthorised apps immediately.

With regard to addition, action will be taken to remove dangerous or gambling-promoting apps from the Google PlayStore or App Store.

Advertisements are being promoted in the media and social media to create awareness among people about the harms of gambling. Parents are being advised and given guidelines to keep their children away from online gaming, he added.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Roads that were marked for widening as far back as 2007, in the RMP-2015, have still not been widened. (Clockwise from left) The Panathur Main Road in eastern Bengaluru, which has been widened; the Nallurahalli Main Road and the Bileshivale Main Road that are expected to be taken up for widening.
ALLEN EGENUSE J

Wide roads, narrow chance?

After years of failing to widen roads, the five city corporations have announced a renewed push for these projects this year. But with land losers still resisting compensation through TDR, and the corporations in no position to pay cash, will the projects take off or will the impasse continue, checks **Chetan B.C.**

For Sakshi, a daily commuter on ITPL Main Road, it takes 20 minutes to cover a mere 3 km stretch during peak hours. "Crossing Hoodi Junction and commuting on ITPL Main Road for 3 km means there will be at least four to five congestion points," she said.

The 10-km ITPL stretch forms a link connecting the southeastern and eastern parts of the city and primarily serves Bengaluru's tech hub. Beyond the end of ITPL Road, there are several educational institutions as well.

"Although there is metro connectivity, the presence of large-scale tech companies across the area has led to increased vehicle movement over time, resulting in multiple congestion points. Haphazard parking adds to the situation," a senior traffic police officer told *The Hindu*.

However, the issue was foreseen. The stretch has been 80 feet wide, though narrower at some points, for the past two decades, while the number of vehicles on the road has increased every year. The parallel road running alongside ITPL Main Road, Devasandra Main Road, is even narrower.

The Revised Master Plan 2015, notified in 2007, proposed widening the stretch to 150 feet. Since then, the plan remained on paper until early 2025, when the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) showed renewed interest in widening it and issued a notification. However, resistance from landowners forced the civic body to withdraw it.

Roads proposed for widening

Corporation	Road
North	Bagalur Main Road
North	Jakkur Double Road
North	Gas Pipeline Road near Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road
South	Subramanyapura Road
South	Begur Main Road to Begur Koppa Road
West	Ittamadu Road
West	Thyagarajanagar Main Road
East	Bileshivale Main Road
East	Whitefield Main Road
East	Nallurahalli Main Road
Central	Padarayanapura Road in Chamarajpet

What has stalled not just this project, but dozens like it, including big ticket projects like Peripheral Ring Road, across the city, is a deepening deadlock over land acquisition. Most landowners are seeking cash compensation, whereas the corporation prefers issuing Transferable Development Rights (TDR).

TDR is a tool used by civic bodies to compensate landowners who part with their properties for development projects. The civic body offers certificates corresponding to the value of the land. Landowners can exchange these with developers and builders in the city in lieu of money. Developers can utilise TDR to expand the permissible floor area ratio. This ensures that the civic body does not have to spend hefty sums on land acquisition. However, several structural issues with monetising TDR prompts landowners to reject this mode of compensation.

Due to this deadlock, the city has seen very few road widening projects being a success over the past 15 years. Roads that were marked for widening as far back as 2007, in the RMP-2015, are still not widened, even as the private vehicle count in the city has grown several fold during this period, from 21.79 lakh in 2006-07 to 1.2 crore in 2026, indicating the crunch on the road.

> One of the major concerns is the lack of an organised marketplace for the trade of TDRs in the State
>
> **K.R.RAMESH**
> Property consultant and developer

Renewed push

After years of failure, the five Bengaluru City Corporations, which presented their maiden budgets recently, have all announced that they will revive road widening projects, clearly a direction laid out by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the State government. Put together, the five corporations aim to widen key roads of a total length of 100 km, 80% of them identified in the RMP 2015, a plan that is already outdated by over a decade.

Some of the roads that will be taken up for widening include Tannery Road, Dasarahalli Main Road, Hennur-Bagalur Road, Jakkur Double Road, and Begur Main Road to Begur Koppa Road in the north corporation; Subramanyapura Road in the south corporation; Bellathuru Main Road to Medehalli and Nallurahalli Main Road in the east corporation; and Padarayanapura Main Road in the central corporation.

The city is estimated to have a road network of over 13,000 km, with most of the roads narrower than needed to carry the traffic load in the city today, leading to severe congestion. On-street parking further narrows the carriageway, worsening the problem.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, since he took charge as Bengaluru Development Minister, has articulated a deeply contested vision of increasing the road network of the city – tunnel roads, double decker flyovers, 110 km of elevated corridors, 300 km of new roads in the buffer zones of drains and Peripheral Ring Road. In their submission to the 5th State Finance Commission, the Bengaluru Corporations listed roads to be constructed over the next five years, amounting to a total of 1,074 km. This is aimed at reducing congestion and easing pressure on major corridors.

As part of the same argument comes the renewed push on road widening. But with the corporations still relying on TDR to compensate land losers, will it be any different this time, is the moot question.

Each of the five corporations have also set aside some funds ranging from ₹19 crore in the Bengaluru City North Corporation to ₹70 crore in the Bengaluru City East Corporation, towards land acquisition. These funds are clearly insufficient to even finish one project in these corporations, if lands are to be acquired paying cash compensation. For the remaining portion, Pommala Sunil Kumar, North City Corporation Commissioner, told *The Hindu* that they are relying on issuing TDR to land losers to complete the road-widening works.

Since 2017, when the revised TDR rules were notified, BBMP has made only over 250 DRC recommendations, according to a GBA source, indicating limited interest among landowners in opting for TDR.

Will it be any different this time?

The Bileshivale Main Road connecting Kothanur Main Road to .K Channasandra Main Road in northern/ eastern Bengaluru, is expected to be taken up for widening. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Why land losers do not want TDR

H.M. Chandrashekhar, a property owner on ITPL Road, whose property has been marked for road widening, said there is resistance for TDR as compensation in their area. "Our first choice is cash compensation," he said. Land losers for Peripheral Ring Road have also been saying the same, pushing Bangalore Development Authority to notify a five-option compensation package.

However, many farmers have rejected all of them and have been demanding cash compensation under the The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Act proposes four times market value of land in rural areas and twice the market value in urban areas as compensation, which has shot up acquisition costs skywards.

"The authorities acquiring our lands should compensate us directly, as per the law of the land. Why should I lose land for a public cause, take a piece of paper [TDR] as compensation and go in search of buyers for that? There is not even a structured market for that in Bengaluru. TDR is essentially a mirage. If the authorities are so confident of encashing TDR, let them only sell that TDR to builders in lieu of what they are offering us and give us cash compensation under the 2013 Act," said Suresh, a farmer whose land is notified for acquisition for PRR.

K.R. Ramesh, a property consultant and a developer himself, said from a TDR holder's perspective, one of the major concerns is the lack of an organised marketplace for the trade of TDRs in the State. In the current setup, both TDR holders and developers depend on intermediaries to facilitate transactions, which both parties are wary of.

The erstwhile BBMP has been proposing to build an online marketplace where all genuine TDR certificates are listed and builders can buy them directly from those who own it, with the platform being run by the civic authority, for nearly a decade now, but hasn't become a reality yet. Civic officials also concede that the biggest roadblock for TDRs was the lack of a structured marketplace, which they say will be solved soon.

North City Corporation Commissioner Mr. Kumar said that work is already under way to develop a digital platform for TDR transactions, and once it is operational, market activity is expected to improve.

The other big concern surrounding TDR from a builder's perspective is the presence of ineligible certificates in the market. "When the TDR scam and fake Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) were unearthed, they needed to be weeded out, and a clear, verified register of TDRs had to be created. This exercise is yet to be completed," Mr. Ramesh said, adding that many genuine builders remain wary of potential legal complications in the future.

The Premium FAR scheme now being offered by GBA has further adversely impacted the market for TDR. Though rules say even while buying Premium FAR, a portion of it has to be TDR, the market has definitely been hit. Builders have often begun preferring Premium FAR over TDR. While FAR allows for additional construction, premium TDR enables expanding permissible floor area, builders say.

All this combined, land losers fear unavailability of a market for TDRs, prompting them to demand cash compensation.

However, GBA officials argue that the TDR market is often portrayed negatively and that there is, in fact, steady demand. Another GBA source noted that while corporations may take a liberal approach to granting plan approvals, builders tend to be cautious and increasingly prefer securing TDR to safeguard their projects. They hope that an online portal for the trade of TDRs will provide a structured marketplace and authenticate TDR certificates, which will give a fillip to TDR trade in the city, convincing land losers to take TDR.

Offering a different perspective, urban infrastructure expert Ashwin Mahesh pointed out that our TDR system differs significantly from those in other countries. "In many countries, only a portion of the total permissible construction is allowed by default. To reach the maximum limit, developers must use instruments similar to TDR. This ensures that such tools naturally gain importance," he said. "In our system, however, TDR is used for additional construction, which can also lead to increased densification."

Development on RMP Roads illegal?

Mr. Mahesh emphasised that road widening need not rely entirely on TDR, especially for projects already identified in the RMP 2015.

"If a road is listed for widening in the RMP, any construction on the notified land after that, barring technical exceptions, is essentially illegal. If corporations take a firm stance, they can still proceed with these projects," he said.

However, in many cases developments have come up on these roads notified for widening even after RMP-2015, with plan approvals from the civic body, complicating the matter further.

This is also because of the long delays in executing these projects.

"What we see today are projects that were repeatedly postponed or delayed due to persistent opposition from residents. Property owners often mounted collective resistance, even though roads needed to be widened as per the RMP. In many cases, they wielded significant influence," a GBA official said.

Is road widening the only way?

As the five city corporations embark on a renewed effort to widen city roads, is it the only way to handle city's traffic congestion is a highly contested idea. The city has seen a consistent argument that expanding infrastructure to private transport will only increase traffic, but instead the city must focus on improving public transport and offer good first and last mile connectivity.

Kannada writer U.R. Ananthamurthy, opposing a proposal to widen Sampige Road in Malleshwaram, had remarked widening of roads was like making a new hole in a belt instead of losing weight.

Dattatraya Devare, a city-based activist, argued that road widening is not the right approach to deal with traffic and said the low-occupancy private cars currently take up a significant amount of road space, leading to congestion. If a way can be found to reduce the number of low-occupancy cars, a considerable amount of space will be freed up on the roads. Therefore, no road widening will be required.

Traffic expert M.N. Srihari said on-street parking also further reduces the carriageway available for traffic and it should be first banned completely, before embarking on widening roads.

The other major concern with road widening is the loss of green cover. An urban planner said as a city we need to encourage walking and cycling, which will take a big hit if the green cover on our streets is lost. This apart from the larger implications for climate change in the city.

These arguments have often fallen on deaf ears in the city, in the government's race, irrespective of the party heading it, to build infrastructure for private transport. But in a situation where they cannot pay cash compensation to land losers, can the civic bodies widen roads in the city? Only time will tell.

With 8,000 sign-ups for Bengaluru, Hyrox is reshaping community despite the high entry cost

Bringing in the flex

All for one, one for all The upcoming event showcases fitness in a whole new light. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Raj Ganpath, a Chennai-based fitness and nutrition coach, admits he is a little nervous. "That nervous energy comes from the fact that this will be my first Hyrox event," he says, referring to the Ultrahuman Hyrox Bengaluru race scheduled for this weekend (April 11 and 12) at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre. According to Hyrox India's Instagram page, it will draw 8,000 participants.

Launched in 2017 in Germany, Hyrox is designed to be inclusive across age groups and fitness levels, it features multiple categories, including singles, doubles and relay formats, and today spans 80-plus events across 25 countries, with over 2,50,000 participants.

India joined the circuit on October 17, 2024, and the first race was held in Mumbai last year.

In an earlier interview with *The Hindu*, Deepak Raj, founder and CEO, Yoska, and country head, Hyrox India and Ironman India, said, "Gym-goers don't have a race – this fills the gap. Hyrox is for everybody; for all forms, and builds endurance and strength," says Deepak.

The draw of Hyrox

What drew Raj in was the structure of the race itself. "If you look at the overall circuit, it's heavily endurance-based, but there's a significant strength component as well," he explains. Competing in the Pro Doubles category, he has spent the last few months preparing, largely through simulations, alternating between one-kilometre runs and functional stations.

For Raj, the process has been as rewarding as the race itself. "For me, Hyrox is already done; my endurance and strength has improved, and my nutrition has become more streamlined."

Mumbai-based Nike Training coach Kunal Rajput, says the rise of Hyrox in India mirrors what he had already observed in early-adopter markets. "In places like Singapore and other parts of the world, the fitness community was really excited, and it became a thing because everybody wanted to participate," he says, adding, "there's a massive pool of people who are participating, but only a certain pool who are actually competing."

However, a shared effort often becomes the hook. "My sister and I did the Bangkok Hyrox in March, which was my sixth race."

Building community

Bengaluru-based fitness trainer Shwetambari Shetty participated in the inaugural Mumbai event last year in the Women's Pro Doubles, finishing on the podium, which qualified her teammate and her for the World Championships in Sweden in June this year. Since then, Shwetambari has taken her participation international. "I also did a race in Bangkok for the experience," she says. The trip doubled as a community outing, with a group of 20 from her gym, Thirdspace in Indiranagar, travelling together.

That sense of accessibility, at least in urban centres, she believes, is key to Hyrox's growing appeal. "If you're already someone who goes to the gym – lifting weights and doing cardio – it's not an impossible leap," she says.

If training builds the base, she stresses that nutrition and recovery determine how well that training translates on race day. "You should be consuming roughly five grams of carbs per kilogram of body weight in the early part of the week, and then increase that to about seven to eight grams per kilogram in the last two days before the race," she says.

Inclusion

For Pune-based performance coach Veenita Johnson, Hyrox is as much about inclusivity as it is intensity. Veenita is among the few Hyrox-certified female trainers in Maharashtra. However, she has been living with bilateral peroneal neuropathy (commonly known as foot drop) since 2020 – a neurological condition that affects movement in the lower limbs. She is now set to participate in the Adaptive category, designed to accommodate athletes with a range of physical conditions, at the Bengaluru race.

Veenita will complete the full one kilometre runs between stations but may modify certain strength components."If there are too many modifications required, you can choose to participate out of the race, just for the experience," she says.

At the Bengaluru edition, The League, the exclusive, members-only dating app, will host an on-ground activation. A League x Hyrox Cam will capture athletes mid-effort, reframing traits like consistency and resilience as markers of desirability, while invite-only access codes will nudge participants to continue connections on the app.

The pricing debate

For Raj, the question of pricing is layered. "If you compare it to a half marathon, then yes, it does feel expensive," he says. Registrations go upwards of ₹10,000 depending on the category." Raj points out that the comparison with road races is not entirely like-for-like. "Here, you're dealing with an indoor, controlled environment. Naturally, the cost of putting something like this together is higher."

He sees India as being in an early phase of adoption. "Like anything new, the first set of participants are willing to pay that premium."

STEPOUT

Reel bites

The Calorie Film Festival is a two-day programme by Science Gallery Bengaluru that offers glimpses of how food inhabits everyday life. Twelve films across 11 languages, spanning documentaries, animated shorts, and narrative features, will be screened. These include *The Great Indian Kitchen* by Jeo Baby, *The Gleaners and I* by Agnès Varda and The Truffle Hunters by Michael Dweck.

At Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on April 11 and 12, between 10am and 8pm. Entry is free.

Time travel

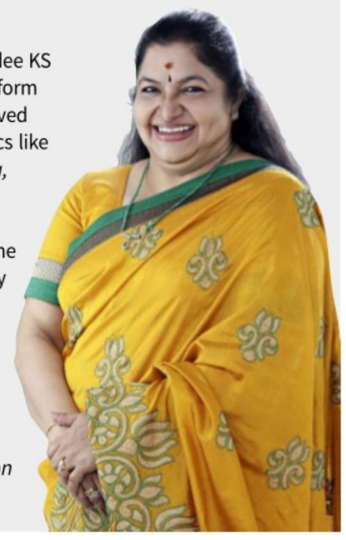
Artenblu presents Keepers of Time: Postcards from Bangalore, an exhibition of postcard-sized watercolour paintings by artist Manjunath Wali. The images are a throwback to simpler times and capture some of the best-loved landmarks in the city such as the Ragigudda and Begur temples, Bangalore Palace and more. Keepers of Time is bound to stir nostalgic emotions.

At MKF Museum of Art, from April 11-19. Entry free, Mondays closed.

Melody magic

Padma Bhushan awardee KS Chithra is all set to perform some of her most beloved songs, including classics like *Aaha Entha Aa Kshana, Beladingale Neenu, Inchara Inchara, O Premave,* and more. She will be accompanied by popular artists and singers to bring nostalgia, melody, and live energy.

At Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, on April 11, from 6.30pm. Tickets on BookMyShow.com



Big 10

The upcoming ABC Summer Art Spread will showcase close to 400 works of art

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The Art Bengaluru Collective (ABC) celebrates its tenth show in the heart of the city this weekend. Titled, ABC Summer Art Spread, the event will not only present the creative efforts of over 35 artists, but also host a myriad of interactive events at the the venue.

In the four years since their inception, the Art Bengaluru Collective (ABC) has been quite busy, building a community of artists and creating awareness of various art forms. "Since 2022, we have organised eight gallery shows, two viewings in partnership with Sunday Soul Santhe, and one each at Chitrakala Parishath and Bangalore International Centre. This time, for our tenth multi-art event, we are hosting a santhe of our own," says Rasheed Kappan.

Rasheed, a journalist, founded ABC with theatre person Ranji David. Both artists in their own right, the duo believed such a forum would demystify art and "democratise access to art appreciation in a gallery setup". All their shows till date, have been held at venues such as the Rangoli Metro Art Centre and Chitrakala Parishath which offer laymen a chance to walk in without feeling intimidated.

Rasheed says the Collective has close to 350 artists on board who take turns to showcase their work at every event. "We have built a community of artists, and this has led to a lot collaborations. Visitors can interact with artists at the venue and bond within the gallery space, which may not be possible at similar art-related events."

Stop and stare One of the entries at the ABC Summer Art Spread. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ABC seems to be going all out for their tenth edition. To be held at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre, it will feature the works of over 35 artists specialising in different media; nearly 400 pieces of art ranging from paintings, sketches, installations, sculptures and more will be showcased. The event will be inaugurated by former Director General of Police Jija Harisingh on April 10.

"Apart from 25 stalls with art and art-related products, this year, we will also feature a fusion dance performance, an improv show, live art, and other performances apart from my own standup act Kappan'Saucer and a food stall. This is a landmark show for us since we established this platform in 2022; hopefully, the future will see us expanding further."

The ABC Summer Art Spread will be on display at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre from April 10-12, 10am to 7pm. Entry free.

Home sweet home Chef Kunal Kapur's Pincode gives familiar dishes a twist. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India on a tasting platter

With Pincode, celebrity chef Kunal Kapur, brings dishes from different parts of the country to the city's table, from mutton ribs inji puli to Himalayan thukpa

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To prepare for his restaurant Pincode's Bengaluru chapter, chef Kunal Kapur visited the city's darshinis, local messes and coastal restaurants. "Many memories of my early days as a chef are connected to Bengaluru. While working on this menu, I wanted to bring together my childhood memories, my roots, and the strong regional identity that defines this city."

Pincode has outlets in many cities in India, and the UAE, and now opens its doors in One MG Lido Mall.

It was conceptualised as a tribute to India's roadside eateries, family kitchens and traditional recipes.

The chef and restaurateur, who is known for hosting and judging *MasterChef India* hails from a Punjabi family in New Delhi, and has travelled extensively, which has shaped his culinary ideology.

"Pincode is all about having great Indian food. We have die-hard classics from across India, sprinkled with a little bit of innovation here and there. The idea was to create food that feels nostalgic yet exciting, familiar yet new, while celebrating the diversity that makes Indian cuisine so extraordinary."

Table talk

The restaurant interiors are opulent with colonial furniture, maximalist prints, and grand chandeliers. The restaurant does not have an alcohol license yet, so I start with mocktails.

The raw mango and chilli, a refreshing number, is made of raw mango pulp, jalapeno and a dash of spicy sauce concocted with Maggi masala. Just like the ethos of the menu, this one has a strong Indian identity but does not hold back on innovation.

The podi idli chaat is a dish especially introduced for Bengaluru. Baby podi idlis are tossed in chutney, curd, and boondi, just like a chaat. The result is a fun mix of flavours and textures.

The mutton ribs inji puli is one of the highlights of the appetiser section. The ribs are marinated in a sticky, sweet sauce inspired by Kerala's inji puli, a condiment made with ginger and tamarind. The chicken curry momos are served with a coconut milk gravy, very Thai yellow curry-esque.

For the main course, I go for a classic dal makhni. It is creamy and a little smokey. And old Delhi-style mutton nihari is next; the meat is succulent and the gravy is light and silky.

The saag burrata, is a take on palak paneer, where the cottage cheese is replaced by a big ball of burrata. While the combination works, I prefer the original dish. Other options include Goan fish curries, pressure cooker chicken and Chettinad anda curry.

Sweet tooth

Desserts deserve a mention of their own. I end my meal with the moong dal halwa pockets. The textural moong dal halwa is wrapped up in deep fried filo pastry. The little dumplings are crunchy on the outside and gooey inside. Served with a sweet milk-based sauce, it was a clear winner.

₹2,500 for two. At One MG Lido Mall, MG Road, Bengaluru. For more details, call 6360802642

Polling percentage drops, but voting smooth in Davangere South, Bagalkot

While Bagalkot Assembly segment recorded a polling percentage of 68.73, the figure was 68.55 in Davangere South

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/ BELAGAVI

Polling for the bye-elections to Davangere South and Bagalkot Legislative Assembly constituencies went smoothly and concluded peacefully, barring few technical glitches and a stray instance of a minor clash in Davangere.

However, both constituencies recorded lower polling percentages compared to the 2023 general Assembly elections.

According to the preliminary data before reconciliation provided by the poll authorities, the Bagalkot Assembly segment recorded a polling percentage of 68.73, and the Davangere South segment recorded 68.55%. In the general Assembly election in 2023, Bagalkot had recorded 69.39% and Davangere South 69.48%.

Slow start

The polling began on a slow note in both constituencies, and at two polling stations in Davangere South, technical glitches in Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units and EVMs delayed the voting. Davangere also witnessed a minor clash between workers of the Socialist Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and Congress over placing of tables near a polling station for distribution of voting slips. The police, however, intevened immediately, resolved the issue, and dispersed the crowd. The polling picked up pace after 9 a.m., slowed down a bit by noon and picked up again after 4 p.m.

(Left) An elderly man arriving to cast his vote in the Bagalkot Assembly bypoll on Thursday; (right) women voters queuing up to cast their votes for the Davangere South bypoll on Thursday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, ANI

Following allegations that some persons, including BJP candidate Viranna Charantimath's son, had threatened some students of BVV Sangha institutions of dire consequences if they did not vote for the BJP in the bypoll, Deputy Commissioner and District Electoral Officer Sangappa has ordered an inquiry. Mr. Charantimath is the chairman of BVV Sangha.

Earlier, Youth Congress workers, led by Rahul Jarkiholi and National Students' Union of India leader Kirthi Ganesh, took out a protest before the Deputy Commissioner's office in Bagalkot and then submitted a memorandum alleging that Mr. Charantimath's son and his followers were involved in threatening students. They also alleged that they had created thousands of Elector's Photo Identity Cards for these students in violation of norms.

In another poll-related development, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad students met election duty officials and complained that inmates of Devraj Urs hostel were not allowed to vote.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Shashidhar Kurer denied the allegations and said that only one student was eligible to vote and that polling officials had allowed her to do so.

Man booked for 'distributing money' during polling in Bagalkot

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

An alleged incident of distribution of money to lure voters was reported on the day of polling during the byelection to the Bagalkot Assembly constituency on Thursday, and the Bagalkot Police have registered a case against a man said to be a Congress worker.

Following a complaint by Vithal Naik, a member of the election flying squad, officers in the Navanagar police station registered a case against Jaffar Bepari. He faces charges of distributing money to voters in Vambe colony in Bagalkot.

Acting on a tip-off, the flying squad members rushed to Vambe colony, but did not find anyone. Later, they came across a video being circulated on social media in which the accused is seen distributing money to voters. Based on the video, the officers filed a complaint.

State Chief Electoral Officer said on X that after the video clip surfaced, the matter was inquired into and an FIR was registered.

'Where the relationship ends in a break-up, the man is in the lock-up,' observes HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Where the relationship ends in a break-up, the man is in the lock-up," the Karnataka High Court observed, while highlighting the "misuse" of Section 69 (sexual intercourse by deceitful means or false promise of marriage) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and mushrooming of cases before the court challenging complaints lodged against men under this provision of the criminal law.

The court made these observations in its interim order of staying a probe against a 34-year-old man and ordering his immediate release from prison, where he has been lodged for the past 42 days based on the complaint lodged by his woman colleague, with whom he had a relationship for about eight months.

"Though the provision, i.e., Section 69 of the BNS, would punish a person having sexual intercourse with the victim on the deceitful promise of marriage, in the case at hand there is no indication except the fact that the breach of promise of marriage is an afterthought that springs in the complaint," observed Justice Nagaprasanna in his April 8 interim order.

Consensual

A perusal of the complaint would clearly indicate that the acts between the petitioner and the complainant were all consensual as not a word of allegation of sexual assault by the petitioner against the complainant is narrated in it, the court pointed out, while staying the probe.

Citing the apex court's guidelines for interfering with First Information Reports, the High Court said that continuing the investigation would be an abuse of process.

CM to attend CWC meeting today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after polling in the byelections to two State Legislative Assembly constituencies in Karnataka on Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to visit New Delhi to attend the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Friday.

He is also expected to discuss the political situation and LPG crisis in Karnataka at the meeting.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

During his visit, the Chief Minister is likely to meet Union Ministers and press for clearance of pending proposals concerning the State.

According to official sources, he will return to Bengaluru on Friday evening.

The Congress high command is expected to take a decision on the change of political leadership in the State government after the poll outcome in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and West Bengal next month.

Priyank dares RSS to file complaint on its letterhead

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Priyank Kharge, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister and Kalaburagi district in-charge Minister, challenged the RSS to file a complaint in its own name over the controversy surrounding AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's "vishasarp" (venomous snake) remark, even as he launched a sharp attack on BJP leaders.

Interacting with the media in Kalaburagi on Thursday, Mr. Priyank stated, "If the RSS is a registered organisation, let it file a complaint on its own letterhead. Why does it seek others' help? I too am facing cases and we are not deterred by such actions."

Defending Mr. Mallikarjun's statement, he stated, "Mr. Kharge's ideology is rooted in the principles of Buddha and Basavanna. He criticises the ideologies opposed to the Constitution. If a venomous snake appears, no one would pour milk on it."

Mr. Priyank also took aim at Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma over his remarks against Congress leaders, alleging that they were driven by the "fear of defeat". He also questioned the Centre's diplomatic approach, asking why India had not taken proactive steps to de-escalate global conflicts. Drawing a comparison, he said former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had played a mediatory role during the Vietnam War.

On reports of illegal transportation of rice from Kalaburagi to Maharashtra, allegedly involving officials, he said it had been brought to the notice of the Minister concerned. "Action will be taken after the bypoll code of conduct ends," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

"Today happens to be the Birth Anniversary of one of the greatest Coonoorians,
Dr. A.M. SELVARAJ,
Professor of Medicine, Madras Medical College, fondly called as AMS, he was revered by his Pupils, Juniors and Peers alike for his encyclopaedic knowledge in Medicine, his dedication in treating patients, his incredible work ethics and of course his eccentricities".
Facebook April 10th 2019.

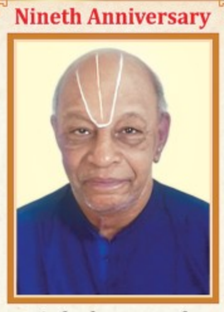
10-04-1930

Prof. (Dr.) ALANDUR MEGHANATHAN SELVARAJ
10th April 1930 – 23rd September 2011 – A Tribute

Dr. ARCOT LAKSHMANSWAMY
MEGHANATHAN MUDALIAR EDUCATIONAL TRUST
SRI LAKSHMI DEVI CHARITABLE TRUST
DR. ALANDUR MEGHANATHAN SELVARAJ MEDICAL TRUST
Anna Nagar, Chennai.
Ph: 044 - 43557496 Cell : 9790826928

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

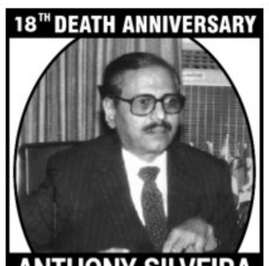
Nineth Anniversary



in fond memory of
V SOUNDARARAJAN
(10-04-1935 - 10-04-2017)
Rtd.Sr.Audit Officer, AG Kerala
Wife: Rajalakshmi,
Sons: Srinivasaraghavan, Kannan,
Daughter: Radhika,
Son-in-Law: Balaji Srinivasan,
Daughters-in-law: Anurada, Amirtha
Grand Children: Dr. Sriraag, Dr. Srijith, Dr. Mahima Srinidhi, Swetha,
Ct: +91 9791183328

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

18TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



ANTHONY SILVEIRA
DGM (Retd) - IOB
06.02.1928 - 10.04.2008
"Your cherished memories will always remain in our hearts guiding and blessing us."
Remembered by :
GEETA P SHETTI
GM (Retd), Indian Overseas Bank
Flat H/103, Satt Adhars
Basilio Complex, St. Inez,
Panaji, Goa - 403001
Mobile : 07715043211

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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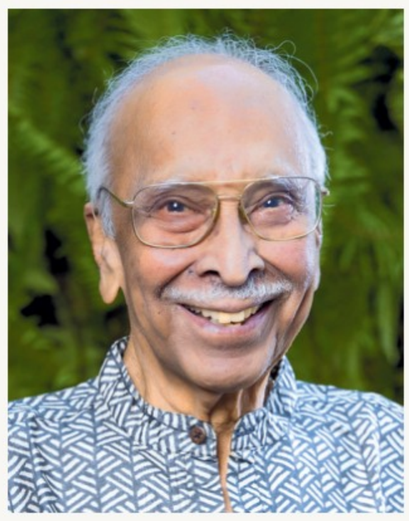
DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

DEATH

THE IDEA IS TO DIE YOUNG AS LATE AS POSSIBLE



CD GOPINATH
1930 - 2026

With profound sadness we announce the passing of CD Gopinath, peacefully at home in Chennai on 9th April 2026.

Beloved to us all he is deeply mourned. He held life lightly with trust and enjoyment. He gave us the confidence to stand tall and held us all safe. With love and gratitude, we will miss his presence. May his onward journey be as fulfilling as this one has been.

He leaves behind
His wife, Comala Gopinath,
Children, grands and great grands.

Kamini Sundaram
Aryama Sundaram
Skanda
Nivruti
Madhulika
Devi
Shivam

Arvind Gopinath
Chitra Gopinath
Siddharth
Nanda
Pratika

Ranjith Gopinath
Chelvi Gopinath
Shivani

Nieces & nephews, extended family and friends
Everyone at INS past and present.

The cortege will leave from
2 Karpagam Gardens, First Cross St., Adyar, Chennai at 1:30 pm
on 10th April 2026 to the Besant Nagar crematorium.
Contact no: 98409 32925 / 98418 05120

Rescue work on at the site where a mound of soil caved in at Hulikal Ghat in Hosanagar taluk on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three go missing as mound of soil caves in at Hulikal Ghat

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Three workers went missing, and four more suffered injuries after a mound of soil caved in at Hulikal Ghat in Hosanagar taluk on Thursday evening.

The incident occurred while the labourers were constructing a retaining wall along the road at Hulikal Ghat. As the soil collapsed, seven workers were trapped beneath the debris. While other workers at the site succeeded in rescuing the four with minor injuries. However, three people remained trapped under the debris.

Shivamogga SP B. Nikhil told *The Hindu* that seven workers were engaged in constructing pillars for the retaining wall when there was a sudden collapse.

"The police, with the help of Fire and Emergency Services, are conducting the rescue operations. Three people are still trapped," he said.

INBRIEF

Seven held in ticket scam at Dwaraka Tirumala temple

The police in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh arrested seven persons, including a software engineer, for their alleged involvement in a fake darshan ticket racket at Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Dwaraka Tirumala, on Thursday. "The accused were printing and issuing fake darshan tickets, worth ₹200 to devotees. The fraud came to light when tickets were scanned at the entrance of the temple," said Eluru Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Kerala records turnout of 78.26% in high stakes polls

Voter turnout stood at 80.86% among women, 75.01% among men, and 57.04% among transgender voters; the highest since 1987 Assembly elections; polling booths were monitored with AI cameras

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala recorded 78.26% polling in the Assembly elections held on Thursday after what has been a short but intense period of electioneering in the State. According to the Election Commission of India (EC), 80.86% of female voters, 75.01% of male voters, and 57.04% of transgender voters in Kerala cast their votes.

Voters in Kerala must now wait till May 4 for the polled votes to be counted and the results declared in the 140 constituencies. Leaders of all the three fronts – the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front, Congress-led United Democratic Front, and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance – exuded confidence about the outcome.

Thursday's voter turnout was higher than that of the 2021 Assembly elections and the highest since the 1987 Assembly polls (80.54%). But it failed to live up to the expectations of the EC which had set a target of 85%.

Among the districts, Kozhikode had the highest polling percentage at 81.32%, followed by Palakkad 80.56%, according to the latest updates on the EC's ECINET app. The turnout in the remaining 12 districts are Alappuzha 77.41%, Ernakulam 79.78%, Idukki 77.15%, Kannur 78.52%, Kasaragod 79.06%, Kollam 76.28%, Kottayam 74.60%, Malappuram 79.74%, Pathanamthitta 70.76%, Thiruvananthapuram 77.05%, Thrissur 77.10%, and Wayanad 78.81%.

There were 883 candidates in the fray for the Assembly elections.

Polling began at 7 a.m. and proceeded at a brisk pace till noon. Shortly after 1 p.m., the polling percentage crossed the halfway mark, prompting Chief Electoral Officer Rathan U. Kelkar to remark that if the pace maintains, the turnout should touch 90%. In the afternoon, the pace slowed down a bit but by 5 p.m. it crossed 75%. Barring a few incidents, including instances of technical glitches reported in electronic voting machines, the exercise was largely peaceful across the State.

Star attraction: LDF candidate V. Sivankutty and UDF candidate K.S. Sabarinadhan stand alongside actor Mohanlal to exercise their franchise in Thiruvananthapuram. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

AI monitoring

This time, Election officials tried out a new artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted video management system that issues automatic alerts in case of long queues or crowding at the polling stations.

Each station has two cameras each, placed inside and outside the station. Total 60,990 caremas were streaming footage. At the control room, one of the screens is dedicated to pinpointing polling stations with long queues (at least 10 voters waiting) outside them.

Confident of a bigger win for LDF, says Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday expressed confidence that the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) would get a bigger mandate this time.

Speaking to the media after casting his vote at a school in Pinarayi in Kannur district, he described the Assembly election as crucial for the State's future. He said Kerala was on a strong path towards becoming a developed State, with achievements across sectors that must continue uninterrupted.

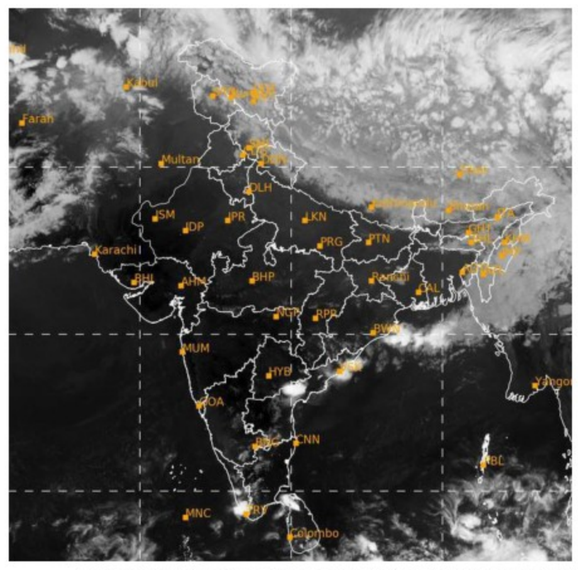
He asserted that people favoured development and believed that only the LDF could ensure governance without deficiencies.

Attempts at vote manipulation through cash inducement, and communal campaigns, would not influence Kerala's electorate, which was politically aware and resistant to such tactics, the Chief Minister said.

He also claimed that Kerala remained the least corrupt State in the country owing to the LDF's political culture.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Meghalaya, Tripura, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Konkan & Goa, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	16	26.3	19.6	Kozhikode	—	35.8	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	35.7	23.9	Kurnool	—	40.7	27.7
Aizawl	5.4	25.7	18.8	Lucknow	4.5	30.5	16.0
Allahabad	3.2	34.0	19.2	Madurai	—	39.0	26.5
Bengaluru	—	35.4	24.6	Mangaluru	—	33.8	25.0
Bhopal	—	34.0	16.4	Mumbai	—	33.5	25.2
Bhubaneswar	11	34.7	22.8	Mysuru	—	36.0	20.0
Chandigarh	2	28.0	12.3	New Delhi	—	30.8	16.3
Chennai	—	37.8	28.3	Patna	0.6	31.5	21.0
Coimbatore	—	36.4	23.4	Port Blair	—	32.7	25.4
Dehradun	10	27.4	11.5	Puducherry	—	35.0	28.3
Gangtok	11	13.9	9.3	Pune	—	35.9	22.4
Goa	—	34.4	24.8	Raipur	—	36.7	25.9
Guwahati	0.4	27.4	20.6	Ranchi	—	30.6	17.6
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	4	20.2	10.4
Hyderabad	—	37.8	25.8	Shimla	14	18.8	7.0
Imphal	—	25.1	20.1	Srinagar	6	17.1	7.0
Jaipur	—	30.8	18.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.3	28.1
Kochi	—	32.8	27.2	Tiruchi	—	38.9	27.6
Kohima	—	20.5	13.0	Vijayawada	—	37.4	27.4
Kolkata	28	27.0	20.7	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.79	..81	36	... 112	99	
Bengaluru	.20	..30	40	 49	...112	
Chennai	.14	..10	22	 25	66	
Delhi	.49	..45	22	... 107	...122	
Hyderabad	.27	..33	19	 67	86	
Kolkata	...8	..54	40	 38	29	
Lucknow	.11	..46	31	 59	55	
Mumbai	..—	..76	33	 43	...109	
Pune	..—	..78	98	 74	...109	
Visakhapatnam	.36	..70	16	 65	...136	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 192 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Pampore, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

("A" Grade in 4th Cycle in NAAC Re-accreditation)
(NIRF-2023: Ranked 19th in State Public University Category, 54th in University Category and 86th in Overall Category) Office of the Registrar (Evaluation), Viswavidyanilaya Karya Soudha, Crawford Hall, Mysore - 570005,

No.:Ex.1.7/A.B.P.F/2022-23 Date: 06.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Government e-procurement portal only)

The Tender has been called by The Registrar (Evaluation), University of Mysore, Mysuru, to supply O.M.R and Bar-coded Answer Booklets required by the Examination Branch. The last date for submission of **Tender is 21-04-2026** and Opening of tender on **23-04-2026 at 11:00 am**.

The Tender Indent Number is: UOM/2025-26/IND0066

For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact phone no: 0821-2419293, 2419214, 2419220 during office hours.

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/38/2026-27 Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

Karnataka Housing Board Building Communities
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invites online percentage rate composite bids from CPWD/KPWD/Any other State Govt. registered eligible contractors in appropriate class/eligible firms/contractors of repute on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC MODE-1) turnkey basis under two bids system (Two Cover System) through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction of International Cricket Stadium and Allied Development Works at Suryanagara 4th Phase KHB Layout, Indlawadi, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka (EPC Mode-1).

Work Indent No.: KHB/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT 738 & IFT No.04/2026-27 Dated: 07.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 943.46 Crores.

Last date for pre-bid Query	:	**22.04.2026 up to 4.00 PM**
Pre-bid meeting	:	**24.04.2026 at 11.00 AM**
Last date for submission of bid	:	**08.05.2026 up to 4.00 PM**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009. Telephone No: 080-22273511 and O/o the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Suryanagara 4th Phase, No.52, BSR Layout, Konasandra, Jigani, Bengaluru-560105 Contact No.080-24482702, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/108/AKAR/2026-27

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, NAGALAKSHMI Sridhara Murthy, W/o. Badari Ram Raja Rao Koratagere, residing at No.939, 6th Cross, Banashankari 1st Stage Banashankari, Bangalore 560050 have changed my name from Nagalakshmi Sridhara Murthy to Nagalakshmi Badri vide affidavit dtd 01.04.2026 sworn before Notary H R Karunakara, Bluru

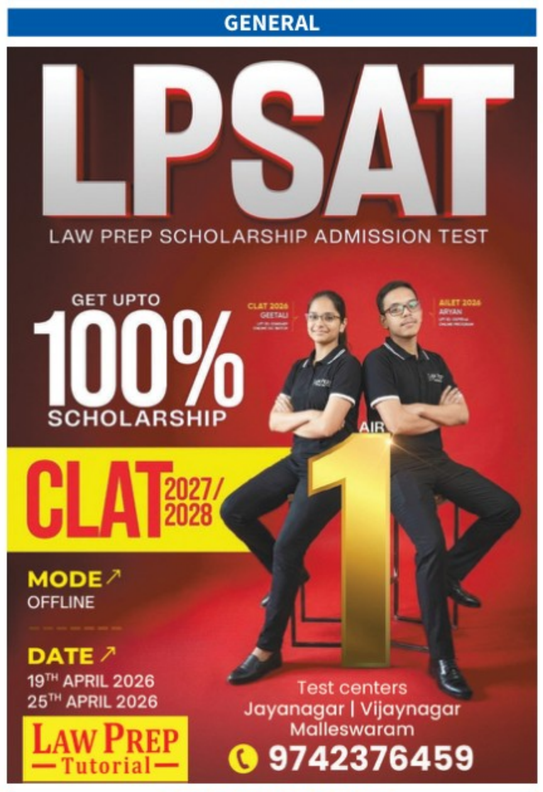
PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, NISHANT Keshavdev Khandelwal, s/o; Keshav Dev Khandelwal, r/o: No–E–918, Amber Block Brigade Lakefront, EPIP Zone, Seetharampalya, Whitefiled, Blr– 560048. Have changed my name as Nishant Keshavdeo Khandelwal.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAM LAL SINGH S/O LATE BIRBAL SINGH and dependent father of ARUN KUMAR SINGH, presently residing at H No. 862, Soundarya Layout, Bengaluru (Karnataka)–560073 and permanent resident of VPO –Banni, Dist– Buxar, Bihar 802128, have changed my name from RAM LAL SINGH to RAMLAL SINGH vide affidavit Cer No. IN–KA28961292282074Y dated 07–04–2026 before the Notary Advocate ANURADHA D (Reg No. 20044), Bengaluru.

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL



SITUATION VACANT
GENERAL

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)
An initiative of the Govt. of Karnataka
Career Opportunity
Call for Applicants

1. **Project Manager – Startup & Innovation:**
*5-10 years of Experience, **Location-** Bengaluru*
2. **Research Associate:**
*3 -7years of experience, **Location:** Bengaluru*

The detailed Job Description and application process are available at **www.karnatakadigital.in/careers**

The deadline for applications is 21st April 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ETYACOL TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
Registered Office: 346-4, 4th Main Road, Upper Palace Orchards, Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru - 560080
CIN: U72200KA2012PTC063749
Email: support@cashkumar.com
website: www.cashkumar.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is being issued by Etyacol Technologies Private Limited ("the Company") and Puvvada Venugopal Naidu & Akkineni Keerthi ("the Transferee") in compliance with point C of Chapter II of the Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Company – Acquisition of Shareholding or Control) Directions, 2025.

Background: The Company and the Transferee have entered into a Share Purchase Agreement, whereby the Transferee intends to acquire 80% of the paid-up equity capital of the Company, resulting in a change of ownership and control.

RBI Approval: The Company has already obtained the prior approval for change of control from The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) via letter ref: BLR.DOR.RSG. No.S565/40-01-237/2025-26 dated 6 th November, 2025. The change in ownership and control as mentioned above will be effective post 30 days of publication of this notice.

Objections/Clarifications: Any person having any clarification/objection in this regard may be addressed to the company within 30 (thirty) days from the date of this notice, addressed to Yogesh Joshi at the registered office of the company or at email yogesh@cashkumar.com.

A copy of this notice is also available on the website of the company at www.cashkumar.com

For Etyacol Technologies Private Ltd
Sd/-
Yogesh Joshi

For Puvvada Venugopal Naidu & Akkineni Keerthi
Sd/-
Puvvada Venugopal Naidu & Akkineni Keerthi

Date:9/4/2026 Place: Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Form No. INC-26
[Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Before the Central Government Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore

In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 30(5) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

And

In the matter of HSIEHHSU MACHINERY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED having its registered office at 1st Floor, Tech37, Plot 2A, 2nd Phase, Sy. No.37, Electronics City, Bangalore-560100, Karnataka, India.

.....Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on April 06, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the 'State of Karnataka' to the 'State of Tamil Nadu'.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the Registered Office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South-Western Region, Bangalore, 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Kormangala, Bangalore - 560034, Karnataka, India, within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office situated at 1st Floor, Tech37, Plot 2A, 2nd Phase, Sy. No.37, Electronics City, Bangalore-560100, Karnataka, India.

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Hsiehhsu Machinery India Private Limited

Vajjiram Ganesan
Director
DIN: 11125672

Place: Bangalore
Date: 10.04.2026

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANTRA DEVI W/O RAMLAL SINGH and dependent mother of ARUN KUMAR SINGH, presently residing at H No. 862, Soundarya Layout, Bengaluru (Karnataka)–560073 and permanent resident of VPO –Banni, Dist–Buxar, Bihar 802128, have changed my name from SANTRA DEVI to SANTARA DEVI vide affidavit Cer No. IN–KA28961666603608Y dated 07–04–2026 before the Notary Advocate ANURADHA D (Reg No. 20044) Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT AT BANGALORE
O.S No. 2360 of 2025

BETWEEN: Sri Dinesh B K, S/o. Sri Keshava Murthy, Aged about 46 Years, R/at SMR Vinay Estella, Flat No. E1-313, Singapura Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore- 560 097 Telephone: 9901773131/994508708 Email ID: bkdinesh1979@gmail.com ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: 1. M/s. Catena Homes India Pvt Ltd, A company registered under the Indian Companies Act, Having office at B-1399, Shrilal Pradhan Complex, Sangam Vihar, Tigri T - Point, New Delhi-110080 Represented by its Director Sri. Vivek Keshavan. Telephone: 971507469249 Email ID: operations@catnea.org.in/lease@catnea.org.in

Also having an office at M/s. Catena Homes India Pvt Ltd, A company registered under the Indian Companies Act, Having office at No. 45, Pathyhousing L.O., Electronic City Phase I, Bangalore - 560 032 Represented by its Director Sri. Vivek Keshavan.

2. Sri. Vivek Keshavan, The Director of M/s. Catena Homes India Pvt. Ltd., Residing at No. 12, Indrasree, Ist Main, 1st cross, Amarjyothi Layout, Cholanagar, Bangalore- 560032 Telephone: 971507469249 Email ID: ownerblr@catnea.org

3. Sri. Sagar Rameshbhai Yaraguppi, The Director of M/s. Catena Homes India Pvt. Ltd., At No. 45, Pathyhousing L.O., Electronic City, Bangalore - 560 032

4. Mr. Ashley Edwards,

5. Mrs. James Cher Ruth, Bengaluru-560077 ... **DEFENDANTS**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NOS. 1, 2 AND 3

Whereas, the plaintiff above named has filed the suit for eviction and restoration of peaceful vacant and physical possession of the immovable property bearing Villa No. RH 59 situated at Ramky Serene Woods, Chikkagubbi Main Road, Chikkagubbi Village, Bangalore- 560077, measuring 162.58 Sq. mts. of super built area and 218.79 Sq. Mts. of undivided share along with one bike parking and one car parking space,

Suit Summons/Notice is hereby given that you are here by summoned to Court in person or through an Advocate to act for you in this case at 11.00 AM on **30/06/2026.** If you fail to appear on the said date the above suit will heard and decided on merits in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the peace and parcel of the immovable property bearing Villa No. RH 59, having PID No. 150200400200820154 & Asset No. 912/59 situated at Ramkey Serene Woods, Chikkagubbi Main Road, Chikkagubbi Village, Bangalore- 560077, measuring with 162.58 Sq. Mts. Super built area and 218.79 Sq. Mts. of undivided share and consisting of 01 unit in which 02 halls, 01 kitchen, 01 utility space, 03 bedrooms, 03 washrooms, 01 bike parking and 01 car parking.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 08/04/2026

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural Dist. Bengaluru

ADDRESS FOR THE COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONER: **VANI H ASSOCIATES**
No. 73, 3rd Floor, CISRS Building CISRS Building, Benson Town Millers Road, Bangalore- 560046.

Bengal blues

SIR, not governance, dominates political discourse in poll-bound Bengal

West Bengal, one of the largest and politically consequential States in eastern India, goes to polls on April 23, with a second phase on April 29. As attention shifts from other elections held on Thursday, the eastern State presents a dispiriting picture. An election that should be about governance and livelihoods is instead being fought over identity and the composition of the electoral roll itself. The Trinamool Congress has been in power for three terms after wresting power from the Left Front. In a more rational world, the outcome of the 2026 Assembly elections would have depended upon the performance of the Mamata Banerjee-led government over the last 15 years and how it has positioned a State that continues to occupy a middling or low rank in major socio-economic indicators. Yet, governance has almost never been the criterion that has determined voter choices in the State in the recent past, and this election does not seem to be an exception. The State, one of a dozen that underwent a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process carried out by the Election Commission of India, registered a drop of 91 lakh electors – a 12% decrease. Ground reports revealed that the exercise, unlike in Bihar, where deletions were more evenly distributed on communal lines, disproportionately affected minority electors and those living in the border districts of West Bengal. Apart from those deleted initially in the SIR enumeration process, more than 60 lakh voters were flagged as having "logical discrepancies" in the draft roll. The Supreme Court, which had to intervene to decide the eligibility of these electors, appointed judicial officers for the task. But that process resulted in the disenfranchisement of 27 lakh electors, who have now been given the option of approaching tribunals. There is no clarity on whether this tribunal process will conclude before the election.

The anger on the ground over the SIR and the onerous burdens placed on electors to prove their eligibility, due to largely a flawed enumeration process adopted by an insouciant ECI, has now become an election issue on its own, sidestepping civic and governance issues. The Trinamool has projected the discontents over the SIR as a consequence of the Centre's and the ECI's machinations, while the BJP has wielded the SIR as a tool to polarise elections on religious lines. West Bengal desperately requires a polity where contestation is over how to revive employment-driven industrial growth in a largely agrarian and services economy, not over the religious and linguistic identities of voters.

Timely inaction

Slowing growth and rising inflation necessitated unchanged rates

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision to keep interest rates unchanged – a "wait and watch" approach, in the Governor's words – is a sensible move. At a time when hasty words and deeds have roiled world markets, economies, and even households, a measured policy response was the need of the hour. The challenge before the MPC is that the main tool it has – the repo rate – impacts growth and inflation in opposite ways. That is, if it had raised rates to try to contain an anticipated surge in inflation, this would have hurt growth. On the other hand, if it lowered rates to boost growth, this would have pushed inflation up. The war in West Asia has resulted in both of these undesirable outcomes: supply chain constraints have pushed up costs while also dragging down growth. A rate change at this juncture could have made matters significantly worse and further dampened the mood in the economy. In his speech, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra predicted that India's GDP would grow 6.9% in 2026-27. Given that this is still the first month of the financial year, the forecast is likely to change considerably over the subsequent MPC announcements. For example, the MPC in April last year had predicted that growth in 2025-26 would be 6.5%. In contrast, the government's latest estimate for the year is 7.6%. Considerable uncertainty continues to persist in West Asia, with shipping companies still hesitant to brave the Strait of Hormuz.

All of this, coupled with the fuel constraints, will continue to hamper growth in 2026-27. The RBI lowered its growth forecast for the first quarter by just 0.1 percentage points, which might end up being an over-optimistic reading of the situation. The World Bank's India Development Update report, released on Thursday, predicts a slowdown in industrial growth in India over the course of this financial year. Consumer and government demand, too, is expected to slow as both groups try to tighten their belts. Inflation, on the other hand, is expected to accelerate considerably to 4.6%, according to the RBI. Yet, the MPC was correct not to raise rates since most of the inflationary pressure is due to supply issues rather than demand conditions. Raising rates would not only have slowed growth further, but even the primary objective of containing inflation would not have been met. A lot of factors need to play out before monetary policy can act – the war, the U.S. tariff-related investigations, greater clarity on a potential El Nino impact on the monsoon this year, to name a few. Until then, inaction is the best course of action.

Making scholarships integral to India's academic culture

Pramath Raj Sinha

Founder and Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Ashoka University, Delhi-NCR. Views expressed are personal and do not reflect the views of the University

If India is to take its Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50%, the question is not only how many institutions the country can build, but who is actually able to walk through their gates and graduate.

India has been making gradual progress to expand capacity; the number of higher educational institutions has grown from 51,534 (2014-15) to over 70,000 last year, as per the 2025-26 Economic Survey. Yet the national GER stands at 29.5 (2022-23). Such limited participation highlights that seats alone do not create students. Education transforms lives when access, affordability, and academic quality come together. For many young Indians, especially in second-and third-tier towns, the binding constraint is not aspiration; it is the cost and risk of participation. This is why scholarships cannot remain a peripheral add-on to the system. They need to be designed, and tailored as an integral and embedded pathway into higher education.

A pressing need

The country is witnessing three intersecting challenges. There is an access challenge across regions and social groups; an affordability challenge that turns higher education into a long-term investment for families; and a quality challenge that determines whether and to what extent enrolment translates into true learning and occupational pursuit. Enrolment rises when those who qualify can afford to participate, and when institutions are confident that diversity and merit will strengthen, not dilute, academic life.

India knows this well: there is a lot of talent that is widely distributed, but with no opportunity. Increasing enrolments will depend less on convincing already advantaged families and more on releasing the pool of capable students who are currently held back by cost, distance, and uncertainty about the benefits of enrolment. Scholarships sit precisely at this hinge point. They are not only instruments of financial support; they can also mould a student's life, ensuring academic fulfilment as well as overall individual enhancement through provisions beyond material aid, such as leadership development, exposure to a wider world of interests, and career guidance.

The Department of Higher Education supports students through scholarships, interest subsidies on education loans, and credit guarantees. The National Scholarship Portal functions as a common window for State schemes, and hosts information on scholarship programmes across ministries, departments and regulatory bodies. One such programme is the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students that provides up to 82,000 scholarships each year across undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional courses. Alongside this, corporate foundations, trusts, and non-profits have also created well-known programmes, often focused on merit-cum-means in fields such as engineering and management.

> Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists

While this is meaningful progress, most scholarships are limited in number, and are still treated as financial plug-ins. The deeper question is whether scholarships can become a pathway which students actively opt into not only for financial reasons, but also for academic community and mentorship.

Lessons from history

India's own history should be the first source of inspiration. In the ancient institution of higher learning, *Takshashila*, students were known to have had as many as five options to pay their education fees: pay up front; work with and learn from the teachers; defer and pay after graduation; receive scholarships from home regions; or rely on support from a charitable community for disadvantaged students. The principle was straightforward – ability should not be turned away for lack of means, and that institutions should find ways to welcome talent.

The opportunity before India is not only to improve scholarships, but to reimagine what a scholarship represents. One can imagine scholarships that are designed as multi-year commitments rather than annual renewals, giving students the confidence to plan their academic lives with a certain stability. Institutional density and enrolment can be studied in order to design region-based scholarships that focus on underserved States and districts. One can also imagine programme-specific pathways that link scholarships to areas of national and regional need. A scholarship attached to a vocational degree in artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, or healthcare, anchored in a district with low participation but high demand, could raise enrolment while strengthening skills and employability.

Public policy and regulation can gently encourage this shift. Incentives such as tax benefits for endowments, or matching funds through private philanthropy, can attract long-term capital into scholarships that are designed to grow and sustain.

Performance-linked frameworks can recognise and reward institutions that demonstrate outcomes across merit, need, and potential. India already has early examples of what such thinking can look like. Ashoka University evaluates financial aid independently of academic admission, following a need-sensitive process where a student's ability to pay is assessed separately from the admission decision. About 20% students receive free education owing to a 100% scholarship, and roughly half of the students receive some form of financial support, while maintaining strong academic standards. The Indian School of Business (ISB) has built a donor-supported scholarship ecosystem across categories that reflect merit and need, including support for those from the armed forces and those who are returning to the development sector. Every year, the ISB awards between 250 and 280 scholarships across its programmes, and notably, 40% of the founding class of the recently launched PGP-Young Leaders programme is supported by scholarships. In both cases, scholarships are not an afterthought. They are critical to the kind of academic community these institutions are trying to build.

International experience reinforces the point. Whether it be multidisciplinary scholarship programmes at U.S. universities or provincial and city-level scholarships in China aligned to local development priorities, the most effective systems treat scholarships as a core part of their academic cultures.

From the margins to the centre

India still needs to expand and diversify its higher educational system. But expansion alone will not deliver a 50% enrolment ratio that also deepens learning and social mobility. Meaningful absorption can only happen when capable students are supported and inspired to look ahead, regardless of where they come from.

This is not a narrow funding conversation; it is about building an ecosystem. Scholarships sit at the intersection of equity, quality, and growth. They influence who and how many enter higher education, and who persists. They shape the social and intellectual life of campuses and the credibility of institutions. They also contribute to the nation's trajectory, throwing light on how its talent is discovered, understood, and developed.

If the goal is not only more students, but also more mobility and national capability, then scholarships deserve to move from the margins to the centre of our higher education strategy.

Nari Shakti, India's defining reform for the next decade

Sangita Reddy

Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals

Over the past decade, India has done something few nations have achieved at scale: it has moved women's empowerment from intent to infrastructure. This shift did not happen organically; it was designed. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, policy has placed women at the centre of development recognising that when women move forward, entire economies accelerate.

The results are visible and measurable. More than 57 crore bank accounts have been opened under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana, with over 55% held by women, giving millions their first foothold in the formal financial system. Nearly 10 crore women, organised into over 90 lakh self-help groups, are now driving grassroots entrepreneurship and local economic resilience. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has reached over 10.5 crore households, reducing health risks and freeing women from time-intensive labour. Moreover, access to credit has expanded, with close to 70% of MUDRA loans going to women entrepreneurs. Female labour force participation has also risen to nearly 37%, reversing a long-standing decline.

In healthcare, programmes such as the Ayushman Bharat and the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan have expanded access and reduced vulnerability at critical life stages. Initiatives like the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme have begun to shift deeply embedded social attitudes.

Individually, these are strong programmes. Taken together, they represent a structural shift in how India views women not as recipients of support, but as drivers of growth. For policymakers and administrators, this offers a clear lesson: scale works when design, delivery, and accountability are aligned.

In healthcare, where the author's expertise lies, outcomes improve when systems are built around real needs, and not theoretical models. Where access is simplified; delivery is consistent; and outcomes are tracked, impact follows. And yet, the next phase will demand even greater focus, as the challenge before us is no longer policy creation, it is policy penetration.

> Over the next five years, India must invest in preparing women to lead not just electorally, but institutionally

The last mile

Despite the scale of programmes, awareness gaps remain. Enrolment is uneven, and last-mile delivery continues to depend on local capacity. For every woman who has accessed opportunity, there are many more who remain on the margins due to lack of access. This is where administrative leadership becomes decisive.

India must move from announcing schemes to ensuring saturation; from measuring outputs to tracking outcomes; and from eligibility on paper to access in practice. District-level ownership, data-driven monitoring, and convergence across departments will be critical. And while technology can accelerate this, it cannot replace on-ground accountability. Therefore, the question for every policymaker is simple: how do we ensure that no eligible woman is left out?

This is where the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam can become one of the most consequential reforms of our time. By expanding women's representation in legislative bodies, it creates the possibility of aligning policy design with lived experience. Women leaders can bring their insights shaped by community realities which can strengthen programmes, and their delivery, targeting, and adoption.

Additionally, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam when implemented with intent, can trigger a multiplier effect with more women in leadership, more responsive policy, higher participation, and stronger leadership pipelines, making reform self-reinforcing.

Globally, we are entering a decade defined by knowledge, innovation, and technology. India already has a strong base, with one of the highest proportions of women in STEM education globally. This is an opportune moment to translate this gain into leadership across sectors such as healthcare, science, enterprise, and governance without losing time.

The past decade has shown what is possible when political will aligns with policy design. With today's strong foundation, the implementation of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam can move empowerment beyond access, to authority.

The way forward

However, representation must translate into capability, and capability must be built through institutional support to ensure that implementation delivers results. Over the next five years, India must invest in preparing women to lead not just electorally, but institutionally. This means structured mentorship, policy exposure, and administrative support systems that enable effective governance.

It also means rethinking how the country designs policy itself. Programmes must be simpler to access and faster to deliver. Feedback loops must be strengthened so that policy evolves with need. And success must be measured not just by coverage, but by change in outcomes across sectors. As India moves towards its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, this is not a peripheral agenda – it is central to its success. Women's participation is directly linked to economic growth, social stability, and institutional effectiveness.

If India can achieve saturation in access, strengthen participation, and enable leadership, it will not just empower its women – it will redefine its growth trajectory. For policymakers and administrators, the mandate is clear: the time to implement is now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lingering uncertainty

Apropos 'MPC factors in ceasefire to keep repo rate unchanged' (April 9), the RBI's cautious, wait-and-watch outlook is on expected lines as India braces for the long-term ramifications of the conflict in West Asia on its economy. Despite India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, the delayed and inadequate restoration of supply chains is bound to impact both growth and inflation figures. Minimising the unsettling of the broader economy in the face of rising global uncertainties is the real test.

S.S.Paul
West Bengal

No end in sight

The near collapse of the U.S.-Iran–Israel ceasefire reflects that all three sides operate with very low trust in each other's commitments.
The war has shown that Iran is not a weak nation as expected by the U.S.
And while now Donald Trump is inclined for a peace deal, Israel wants unrest.
Such wars are a plague on the world and damage poor nations economically.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

Unclear ceasefire

The ceasefire gives some relief, but its scope still feels unclear in practice. Different views on Lebanon continue to weaken trust between the U.S. and Iran. Continued strikes suggest that control on the ground remains limited. This creates doubt about how firmly the agreement is being followed. The Strait of Hormuz stays sensitive, as any tension there quickly affects global oil supply. Higher oil prices are already pushing fuel costs and inflation in India. Talks in Islamabad may help if both sides settle on clear terms and follow them steadily.

S.Balasubramaniyan
Tamil Nadu

Last minute defeat

In what will go down as the biggest misjudging moment in the 2026 IPL games so far, David Miller has become the villain for Delhi Capitals fans overnight. That Miller refused an easy single, off the penultimate delivery of the final over bowled by Gujarat Titan's Prasidh Krishna, has painstakingly cost the match for his team! While Miller's blistering 41 off 19 balls brought DC to the doorstep of victory, his shocking refusal to trust his partner Kuldeep Yadav has sparked massive outrage. This is a heartbreaking pill to swallow for DC and will haunt Miller for years!

R. Sivakumar
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

Mohsina Kidwai was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council at the age of 30 and not 28. (News page — "Mohsina Kidwai, a former Union Minister and veteran Congress leader, passes away", April 9)

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Have elections in India become plutocratic?

PARLEY

M.R. Madhavan

Co-founder and president of PRS Legislative Research

R. Rangarajan

Former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'

As Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry head to the polls, India's vibrant democracy is on full display once again. But behind the rallies and roadshows, there is a growing concern: elections are becoming increasingly expensive. With political parties spending heavily on campaigns, advertising, and outreach, the role of money in shaping electoral competition is under scrutiny. Data shows that nearly 93% of India's Members of Parliament are crorepatis, raising the question of whether access to political power is becoming more unequal. What does this mean for smaller parties and independent candidates? And what would it take to fix it? M.R. Madhavan and R. Rangarajan discuss in a conversation moderated by **V. Nivedita**. Edited excerpts:

Elections have become increasingly expensive. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

How expensive are elections in India?

M.R. Madhavan: We actually don't know. Officially, the limit for a Lok Sabha candidate is ₹95 lakh. But we know, from talking to anyone who has contested, that they spend far higher than that. There is no official number, but there are estimates, and they vary from State to State. I have heard numbers in the range of ₹50 crore to ₹100 crore being spent in some places by each candidate. But there is no real data because none of this is accounted, audited, or reported.

The Election Commission mandates that candidates can spend only a few lakhs, but the candidates spend higher than that. How is the EC allowing them to do that?

R. Rangarajan: This is a very complicated problem. I have studied it, taught it, and even contested an election, where I spent ₹20 lakh for a parliamentary seat and got a handsome 1.35 lakh votes, about 12% of the constituency.

But that is for a candidate who simply wants to participate. For winning, as Madhavan said, the official limit is ₹95 lakh for a parliamentary constituency and ₹40 lakh for an assembly segment. In reality, the expenditure runs into tens of crores. There is no limit on party's expenditure but only on candidate.

It has become an uneven playing field. The Election Commission does send observers, but they are there only from the day of nomination to election day. In those 20 days, how much can they monitor? A lot of spending happens in unaccounted cash.

Are smaller parties and independent candidates being pushed out because of high expenditure?

R.R.: Money is not a sufficient condition to win an election, but it has become a necessary condition. People spend crores and still lose. Unless there is a strong wave in favour of a leader or a movement, which happens rarely, like the AAP's victory in Delhi in 2014. In most elections that are dominated by national and regional parties, well-meaning independents and smaller parties are only going to be also-rans. They cannot compete with the money power of larger parties.

M.R.: This is standard across democracies. Take the U.S., a large country with 50 States, but effectively only two major parties dominate. India has more parties, but if you look at it at the State-level, typically, there are two main contenders, sometimes three, and they eventually form coalitions. This is typical in a first-past-the-post system, where even a 1-2% margin can decide the winner. So parties tend to consolidate. Smaller parties and independents usually don't stay in power, except in rare cases.

Is a cap necessary on election spending by individual candidates?

M.R.: The problem is that we need to spend a lot of money for the size of constituencies we have, for holding rallies, and to reach out to people. Even if you are not giving money to make people vote for you, you would still need a lot money to campaign legitimately. The current limits are too low.

One option is to increase the limit. Today, even if someone raises funds transparently, they cannot spend beyond the limit without risking disqualification. So, candidates are forced to use black money.

R.R.: It is a catch-22 situation. Increasing limits may allow candidates to spend more white money, because the bigger parties tend to have resourceful candidates. But I think there is a logic in keeping the limit at this level. In fact, many people will say even this limit is quite a high number. Because of the first-past-the-post system, candidates leave no stone unturned to win, including cash distribution.

State funding of elections has been discussed, but it is not practical to implement.

There could be a cap on party funding as well, similar to the U.K. system, where total party spending is linked to the number of candidates. A mixed-member proportional representation system could also help smaller parties gain representation, but that would require major changes.

Will imposing caps on parties' spending on elections level the playing field?

M.R.: Limits can be imposed, but it will drive the spending underground. You'll have more spending with black money, which is not reported. The reported amount stays within the limit. How do you manage that given the way our country works?

One option is to remove limits and focus on transparency. That is, let candidates spend money and report it accurately.

R.R.: Even then, the use of black money will continue. There is already no limit on party spending, yet official disclosures are far lower than actual estimates.

In the 2024 general election, the BJP said it spent ₹1,500 crore and the Congress said it spent around ₹600 crore in their affidavit to the Election Commission. The official expenditure of all the big national and State parties put together is around ₹3,300-3,400 crore. But the Centre for Media Studies estimates that close to ₹1 lakh crore was spent.

Is a level-playing field even possible?

R.R.: It requires political will. One simple reform could be banning government-funded advertisements six months before elections. Currently, governments can spend on ads until elections are announced, just 35-40 days before the elections. Other reforms include proportional representation.

M.R.: The question is, is money the primary driver of election results? Evidence shows that parties spending heavily still lose if they fail to convince voters. I would also focus on post-election functioning. Other than the fact that they elect the prime minister or chief minister, they become irrelevant because they have to abide by the party whip. That is where we need real reforms.

The Supreme Court scrapped electoral bonds, but the opacity remains.

R.R.: I think the Supreme Court rightly struck it down. And we got to know the details of the donors because they were asked to disclose it. And we got to know who had given how much to which party. I think that was a very ill-conceived scheme..

It would have been completely opaque. Companies Act was amended to say that even loss-making companies can contribute, which is against the interests of shareholders.

The electoral bond scheme would have neither brought transparency nor accountability.

How do we build a system that has both accountability and transparency?

M.R.: It's very important to have transparency because that brings in accountability. If you see 'X' has funded this party which won the election and that party takes a decision that benefits 'X', it is at least open and visible. That visibility would bring in accountability.

But there's a question – should companies be allowed to fund elections? They don't have a vote. Only citizens vote.

So should such an entity be allowed to fund elections at all? We had actually banned it sometime in the late 60s. We allowed it again about 15 years later. Both were done for certain political reasons, but the fundamental question should be discussed.

R.R.: That is a fair point. Democracies the world over are a nexus between big corporate interests and politicians. This would require political will to change the law and that is not forthcoming, unfortunately.

What role do civil society, pressure groups and media play in fixing the system?

R.R.: I think the most important role they play is at least spreading awareness.

M.R.: But it's also important to note that people do know a lot of things and they act in a particular way. In fact, Milan Vaishnav had a very nice book called 'Why Crime Pays', which says that people actively vote for certain politicians who have a criminal background. That in fact benefits them in an election.

Beyond awareness, we'll have to address the core reasons why people behave in a certain way so that we actually have a more thriving democracy.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Diplomats are the last to leave Indian missions in war zones

They stay on in the face of danger, sending dispatches on the situation, setting up calls with officials, and helping Indian citizens in safe exit

Suhasini Haidar

War is the failure of diplomacy, said British MP and activist Tony Benn. However, in a world where diplomacy is increasingly not being given a chance to succeed, it is important to remember the diplomats who keep working, despite the war raging outside their mission windows.

"If there's a horde of people fleeing a burning building, apart from the firefighters, the only people crazy enough to be going in are journalists," my professor would say. However, few think about the diplomats, based in India's missions around the world who choose to stay inside the 'burning building' even as the situation gets more heated. As the world saw the U.S. President's words threatening a "civilization will die" if Iran did not comply with his demands this week, and feared the worst would follow, Indian diplomats based in Tehran and other towns outside the capital were working around the clock inside the embassy, with a basement parking area to run for as a bunker in case of airstrikes. Some were sending dispatches on the situation there, some setting up meetings and calls with officials, some organising stocks of food, water, medicines, and some working on making arrangements for Indian citizens in the country to leave through land boundaries. Similar scenes must be playing out at the Indian missions in Tel Aviv, Beirut, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and other cities over the past month.

Over the course of my career, I have met many such diplomats, stoic in the face of danger, often having to take the call for the entire embassy and families on whether to continue to stay given the risks, and to know when to take the equally difficult decision – to leave.

My professor's words flashed through my mind as we entered into Beirut harbour during the 2006 Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, and could see smoke from buildings as well as the airport where Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) jets had struck the tarmac and aircraft, forcing it to close. I was one of a group of journalists on board the INS Mumbai, who were being dropped there, while the Indian Navy was going to evacuate thousands of Indians as part of Operation Sukoon. As Beirut harbour came into view, our first sight was Indian Embassy personnel, setting up desks right at the port to organise entry permits for all those onboard and checking passports and documents for those queuing up to leave. They never left, even as the bombardment came closer to the embassy building, only taking precautions to stay away from windows to avoid flying glass.

Arriving in Gaddafi's Libya days before NATO began to bomb the country in March 2011, I saw the same diligence in duty as the Indian team stamped passports, sharing rooms in the Ambassador's residence in Tripoli, which was more secure, even as street battles and gunfire raged outside. In Syria the next year, as the anti-Assad uprising came closer to the capital Damascus, the Indian embassy's diplomats stayed on despite reports that the regime could be overthrown in a violent revolution. With only a skeletal strength of staff, the mission worked the phones to help journalists who had been detained by the Syrian police for unauthorised filming. The Indian Embassy in Kabul lived in precarious times for years, losing two diplomats - Defence Attaché Brigadier Ravi Datt Mehta and diplomat V. Venkateswara Rao - in a suicide bombing right at its gates in 2008. Despite the daily danger, diplomats were evacuated out of Afghanistan only four times in four decades, and many went back in soon after.

Most diplomats confine themselves to writing dispatches back to the foreign office, but could easily fill several action-packed thriller books with their experiences, which would be read long after they are gone. As a friend of American diplomat Richard Holbrooke told his biographer, "It would be far better to write a novel about him, than a biography, let alone an obituary."

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Smoking out

Fogging on wheels: A worker is engaged in fumigation work to control mosquitoes and combat diseases like dengue and malaria in Lucknow on April 6. SANDEEP SAXENA

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 10, 1976

HMT to make components for nuclear reactors

Bangalore, April 9: A new division for making components for nuclear reactors would be set up in Bangalore by the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) Ltd., its Chairman, Dr. H. M. Patil, disclosed here today.

The new project estimated to cost Rs. 2.5 crores was awaiting the Government's sanction, he said.

Dr. Patil claimed that in five years from now and given the right direction, the HMT's know-how (now being utilised in the Philippines and Sri Lanka) would perhaps see many projects come up in developing countries. The recent UNIDO-HMT workshop on machine tools was a pace-setter in that direction, he said.

Dr. Patil said a high-level team from the HMT would be visiting Kenya in connection with the setting up of the machine tool plant at the instance of the Kenya Government. Another project contemplated by the HMT, he said, was for supplying, erecting and commissioning of machine tools for an advanced training centre in Iraq, helping assure Rs. 2.5 crores worth of machine tools.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 10, 1926

Baghdad in danger

Baghdad, April 9: The safety of Baghdad is seriously threatened by an unprecedented flood in the Tigris river which has breached near the Royal Palace. The Palace has been evacuated and is surrounded by a fierce torrent.

King Faisal, who is away in his country seat a hundred miles away superintending operations in his cotton estate, has been wired for and he is hurriedly returning to Baghdad to-night by special train.

Royal ladies have been removed very speedily to the house of Nuri Pasha, Minister of War. The palace gardens present a scene of devastation. A mass of wreckage were whirled round palm trees by the ever-increasing current.

From Page One

Record voter turnout in Puducherry and Assam

After casting his vote, the Kerala Chief Minister asserted that the State's people favour development and believe that only the LDF can take the State forward with commitment. In Kerala, polling took place in 140 Assembly seats with the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) looking for a hat-trick in the State.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, on the other hand, reiterated that the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) will come to power with more than 100 seats, while BJP State president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is confident of winning a majority on its own.

'Historic' turnout in Assam

In Assam, the bulk of the State's 2.5 crore voters have sealed the fate of 722 candidates, including 59 women. Officials said voting was largely peaceful, despite reports of violence in a few constituencies, including Khowang and Tamulpur, and allegations of proxy voting at a booth in the Guwahati Central constituency.

"Assam has risen above language and caste. Our people have voted with one clear resolve – to protect our land, our identity, and our culture from illegal infiltration and demographic aggression," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

State Congress president Gaurav Gogoi thanked the people of the State for turning out in unprecedented numbers to vote for change. "It is now the responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure the security of the EVMs and to conduct an accurate counting of votes on May 4," he said.

According to an EC statement, over 2.5 lakh polling staff reached their polling stations on Wednesday night itself. A number of new voter-friendly initiatives were introduced, including easily identifiable colour photos of candidates on EVM ballot papers, mobile deposit facilities, newly designed voter information slips for easy readability, and a limit of 1,200 electors per polling station.

Iran ceasefire teeters on Lebanon, Hormuz row

The chief of Iran's nuclear agency said on Thursday that protecting Tehran's right to enrich uranium is "necessary" for progress with the U.S.

Mohammad Eslami, who leads the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, made the remarks on Thursday to presspersons during commemorations for the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran. "It is a part of the necessary (things) that nobody speaks about," Mr. Eslami said, referring to the U.S. refusal to acknowledge enrichment as one part of Iran's 10-point plan.

Iranian news agencies published a chart on Thursday suggesting the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard put sea mines into the strait during the war. The chart showed a large circle marked "danger zone" in Farsi over the route ships take through the strait, through which 20% of all traded oil and natural gas once passed.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met with the country's Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, who jointly "appreciated the restraint demonstrated by all sides". Pakistan's premier spoke on Thursday to his Lebanese counterpart, Nawaf Salam, and "strongly condemned Israel's ongoing aggression against Lebanon", the Prime Minister's Office said.

'India's FY 27 growth outlook cut to 6.6%'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The World Bank has revised downwards India's growth outlook for 2026-27 to 6.6% from 7.2%, citing the impact of the war in West Asia on household and government consumption, as well as on industrial activity.

The India Development Update report by the World Bank said that "in the absence of the conflict", India's GDP growth was projected at 7.2%, a reflection of better-than-expected growth in 2025-26, "strong initial momentum" in the fourth quarter of that year and a "broad pro-growth reform agenda". "Growth is now projected at 6.6% in FY27, reflecting headwinds from the Middle East conflict – assuming an extended disruption in global energy (oil and gas) supply till end-2026," the report said.

The India Development Update report is a companion to the South Asia Economic Update 2026. That report had projected growth in South Asia to slow to 6.3% in 2026 from 7% in 2025.

The World Bank's Acting Director for India Paul Procee noted that there are things that can be done to boost growth. "Boosting private sector-led growth will be critical to strengthening economic resilience and supporting more young people to enter the workforce," Mr. Procee said.

The report said that industrial activity is expected to slow to 7.5% in 2026-27 from 8.8% in the previous year. It said that the manufacturing sector – especially electronics, automobiles, and other tradable goods – will prop up industrial growth.

"However, higher input costs and decreased export demand from the Gulf region will weigh on overall industrial growth," the report said. "Business services are likely to be impacted by the global economic slowdown and higher input costs will adversely impact food and accommodation services."

Manipur blast: family calls for arrest of perpetrators

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two days after two children in Manipur were killed in an alleged bomb attack on the house of a Meitei family in Bishnupur, the children's grandfather on Thursday virtually addressed a press conference, calling for the immediate arrest of the perpetrators, who he believed were "Kuki militants".

At the press conference organised by Meitei civil society organisations (CSOs) in New Delhi on Thursday, Oinam Babuton, the paternal grandfather of the children, said, "There has to be an end to Meitei civilians being attacked and killed by these militants."

The April 7 morning attack on the family's home killed the children in their sleep and seriously injured their mother, a Guwahati-based nurse.

The attack has once again escalated tensions in the State. CSOs, such as the Meitei Heritage Society, Delhi Manipur Society, and others, called for "exemplary punishment" for the perpetrators of this attack, dismantling of the "infrastructure of Kuki militancy", and fixing accountability for the failure to prevent such attacks.

NIA may probe death of Meitei children in blast

Protests and shutdown continue in Manipur capital and other valley areas; curfew and Internet curbs to remain; CM to request Centre to stop withdrawing security personnel from the State

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The investigation into the killing of two Meitei children in a "bomb attack" in Manipur's Bishnupur district on April 7 is likely to be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), a senior government official said on Thursday. Their father is a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan.

The official said the attackers had not been identified so far and all aspects were being looked into.

At a unified command meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on April 8, it was decided that curfew would continue in the valley districts. Security forces and police were asked to be more visible on the streets.

The meeting discussed the protection of properties and residences of MLAs, which may be targeted by the local people.

The State government is likely to request the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to halt the withdrawal of 70 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) – around 7,000 personnel – for election-related deployment in other States.

Security personnel stand guard as protesters attempt to enter CM's bungalow, following the killing of two children, on Thursday. ANI

In the past few days, around 40 CAPF companies have been withdrawn from Manipur.

A total shutdown was observed on Thursday in the valley areas, including Imphal, and rallies were organised to protest the killings. Internet remained suspended for the third consecutive day.

Mob attack

Following the killings at Tronglaobi, a mob stormed a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp at Gelmol, over one km away, a buffer zone between Meitei and Kuki-Zo areas since 2023, resulting in the death of three protesters in CRPF firing.

Gelmol was earlier a Kuki-Zo village but after ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo people erupted in the State on May 3, 2023, the tribal community was displaced and the village became a CRPF base camp. The nearest Kuki settlement is three km away.

The official said the mob set parts of the CRPF camp on fire, including the dining area, and it was when the protesters tried to loot the armoury that the CRPF personnel opened fire, leading to the death of three civilians.

The official said that the bomb that killed the children and left their mother grievously injured was locally assembled.

Another unexploded device – a galvanised iron pipe with the tip of a factory-made rocket head affixed to it and wires dangling from the sides – was defused by the Manipur Police and sent for forensic examination.

'Intensify operations'

"The make of the explosive device is not established yet. It is not clear if the attackers came from the hillside or the attack was outsourced to someone in the vicinity. All angles are being explored. It may be a ploy to undermine the efforts of the new Chief Minister to bring all the communities together," said the official.

Security forces have been asked to intensify operations against the United Kuki National Army (UKNA), an insurgent group active in Henglep subdivision, south west of Churachandpur district since 2015.

Privileges committee asks Kamra to give apology

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra was cross-questioned by the Privileges Committee of the Maharashtra Legislature on Thursday in a breach-of-privilege matter being examined against him.

He was asked 24 questions during the one-hour proceedings, and was told that the matter will be looked at differently, if he tendered an unconditional apology. Mr. Kamra later told *The Hindu* that he had refused to tender an unconditional apology.

He had appeared before the committee a few times before this. The last time, the matter was postponed after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sushama Andhare had sought an extension. A breach-of-privilege motion has been moved against both of them for their comments against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

"Cross questioning of Pravin Darekar and Kunal Kamra took place today. (BJP leader Pravin Darekar had moved the motion against Mr Kamra). We have told him that if he tenders an unconditional apology, the committee will think of this differently," head of privileges committee Prasad Lad said.

Government notifies CAPF law; families protest, say it undermines rights of forces

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

On a day when the families of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel protested at the Rajghat against the passing of the CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026, by Parliament on April 2, the President gave it her assent. Subsequently the CAPF, General Administration Act, 2026 was notified in the Gazette of India.

The protesters stated that certain provisions of the Bill undermined the rights and service conditions of the forces that had served for decades as the first line of defence in safeguarding India's internal security and borders. Retired CAPF personnel and their families, and the wives of several serving officers turned up for the protest with their children.

Members of All Ex Paramilitary Forces welfare Association stage a protest against CAPF Bill 2026 on March 23. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Families present at the Rajghat said that other than the Bill they were protesting the neglect of their demands – such as restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, time-bound promotions, uniform service conditions, and dignified career progression.

The Act stated that in all CAPFs, 50% of the total posts in the rank of Inspector-General, at least 67% in the rank of Additional Director-General and all posts in the rank of Special Director-General and Director-General shall be filled by IPS officers on deputation. Till now, such postings were done based on executive orders. The Act will negate a May 23, 2025, Supreme Court order which asked the Home Ministry to "progressively reduce" IPS deputation in CAPFs up to the rank of IGs in the next two years.

If voted to power, Cong. will end 'discriminatory system' in CAPF leadership: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the Congress would dismantle the "discriminatory system" that allegedly denies personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) opportunities to rise to top leadership positions, and ensure they receive their "full rights and privileges" when they return to power.

Marking Valour Day of the Central Reserve Police Force, Mr. Gandhi paid tribute to CAPF personnel for safeguarding the country and confronting threats ranging from terrorism to left-wing extremism.

"Your courage and sacrifice safeguard our nation every single day. Stationed at our borders, you keep the country secure; you confront the threats of terrorism and Naxalism; and you ensure that our elections remain peaceful and safe," the Congress leader said on X.

Rahul Gandhi

"Despite years of sacrifice and arduous service, CAPF personnel receive neither timely promotions nor the right to lead their own force simply because the top leadership positions are reserved for individuals from outside the organisation," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said personnel within the forces possess "specialised training, invaluable ground-level experience, and deep strategic insight", and maintained that in the interest of national security, such forces should be led by officers drawn from within the system.

Calling it an issue of "justice and dignity", Mr. Gandhi said long-pending concerns over promotions, pay, welfare and leadership opportunities had undermined morale within the forces. "Upon forming the government, we will dismantle this discriminatory system...," he said.

His remarks come days after Parliament cleared a Bill aimed at creating a unified legal framework governing personnel across different CAPFs, replacing the current set of separate service-rule regimes.

Cong. opts out of byelection in Baramati after 'appeals'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal on Thursday announced that the party will not contest the Baramati Assembly byelection.

The bypoll to be held on April 23 was necessitated by the death of Ajit Pawar, then Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister. His wife, Sunetra Pawar, now the Deputy Chief Minister, is set to contest the election as the Mahayuti candidate.

Owing to "emotional appeals" from the leaders of NCP as well as the NCP (SP), Congress is withdrawing its candidate Akash More, Mr. Sakpal said.

Congress leaders to meet for discussing women's quota amendments, delimitation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The meeting comes ahead of a three-day sitting of Parliament for introducing the women's quota Bill

The Congress has convened a meeting of its top decision-making body, the Congress Working Committee (CWC), on Friday to deliberate on the Centre's move to amend the women's reservation law, the proposed delimitation exercise, and developments in West Asia.

The meeting will be held at 3 p.m. at the party's Indira Bhavan headquarters and is expected to be attended by senior leaders. The CWC will discuss the political and constitutional implications of the proposed changes, including the planned delimitation of parliamentary constituencies. The deliberations come days ahead of a three-day sitting of the Parliament during which the government is expected to introduce legislation to operationalise the women's reservation law before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha to 816 seats, with 273 seats reserved for women.

Last week, Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh warned that a rushed delimitation process could have "dangerous consequences".

Mr. Ramesh said the party did not want any disturbance in the existing balance of representation among States and cautioned against haste in amending constitutional provisions governing the delimitation of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies.

The CWC is also expected to review the evolving security situation in West Asia, including the recently announced two-week ceasefire.

CBI opposes plea to make judge recuse in liquor case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday informed the Delhi High Court that former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other discharged accused in the liquor policy case cannot seek the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma merely because she attended a "legal seminar" by the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad.

The agency said, "If attending a function of ABAP shows ideological bias of any judge then large number of sitting High Court and Supreme Court judges would have to recuse from hearing any case".

APPEAL

Baby Raj Ghosh, Manipal Hospitals, Hospital No.MH017907535, 12 months is suffering from Congenital Heart Disease Situs Ambiguous, Infracardiac TAPVC, common complete unbalanced AVSD, No AVVR, Severe PS, D Malposed GAs. He requires to undergo early TAPVC Repair + Bilatertal BDG surgery. The Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.5, 50,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Raj Ghosh, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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ASSEMBLY POLLS

Queuing up: Voters waiting to cast their ballots at a polling booth in Kalamassery, Kerala on Thursday. R. K. NITHIN

Come rain or shine: People lining up with umbrellas at a polling booth in Guwahati, Assam on Thursday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Duty calls: A women carrying her child while casting her vote at a government primary school in Puducherry on Thursday. R. RAGU

Ride for rights: Voters travelling on a boat across the Brahmaputra to vote in Darrang district of Assam on Thursday. AFP

People waiting to submit their petitions before a special tribunal after their names were deleted from final voter list in Nadia district on Wednesday. PTI

Of 90 lakh voters excluded by SIR in Bengal, 63% are Hindus, 34% are Muslims

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Muslim voters account for more than a third of the 90 lakh names removed from West Bengal's electoral rolls during the course of the special intensive revision (SIR) process, disproportionately higher than their share of the State's population.

A comparison of booth-level data before and after the SIR shows that 57.47 lakh, or 63%, of the deleted voters are Hindus, while 31.1 lakh, or 34%, are Muslims. This figure assumes significance because Muslims accounted for only 27% of the State's population as per the last census in 2011. In absolute terms, however, Hindus account for the largest number of deletions.

Except for the Bharatiya Janata Party, all political parties in West Bengal had opposed the SIR. The BJP, however, insisted that the process was a drive to sanitise the electoral rolls and remove "illegal infiltrators" from Bangladesh.

High deletions among Matuas

The data on exclusions now show that Hindus faced high deletion rates in certain border constituencies where the majority of the electorate are Matuas. The Matuas are a sect of Hindu namasudras, a Dalit community, who migrated from Bangladesh in large numbers and are being promised citizenship by the BJP under the Citizenship Amendment Act.

For instance, in the Bagda constituency in North 24 Parganas district, 50,230 voters were deleted, of which 46,826 are Hindus and 3,264 Muslims. At Bongaon Uttar in the same district, 42,164 voters have been deleted: 37,101 Hindus and 4,310 Muslims.

In Bhabanipur, there were 50,987 deletions, of which 37,227 are Hindus and 12,084 are Muslims.

In certain districts of the Jangalmahal region where the population of Muslims is low, Hindus account for almost 90% of the deletions. In Jhargram, about 94% of the electorate excluded from the electoral rolls is Hindu. They account for 91% of deletions in Bankura, and 88% of deletions in Purulia as well.

While 63 lakh voters were dropped from the draft rolls published by the EC on February 28, another 60 lakh faced adjudication by judicial officers. Of these, 27 lakh electors were excluded on April 6, taking the total number of deletions to over 90 lakh. Of those deleted during the adjudication process, the highest numbers were in Muslim-dominated districts.

Murshidabad, the district with the highest percentage of Muslims in the State, also recorded the highest deletions of electors under adjudication, with over 4.55 lakh excluded from the 11.01 lakh names which went for judicial scrutiny. North 24 Parganas saw the deletion of 3.25 lakh electors during the adjudication process, followed by Malda, another Muslim-dominated district, with 2.39 lakh deletions. In terms of voters deleted during adjudication, there were more deletions among Muslim voters than Hindus in constituencies such as Bhabanipur and Nandigram.

The West Bengal electorate stands at 6.75 crore voters, significantly lower than the 7.66 crore voters on the rolls before the SIR began in October 2025.

From the margins to momentum: the BJP's electoral journey in Tamil Nadu

Party initially capitalised on Hindutva politics in Kanniyakumari, winning its first Assembly seat in 1996; thereafter it tasted success only in alliance; after the passing of Dravidian stalwarts, it has gained momentum in State's political discourse and hopes to convert its rising vote share to more seats

IN FOCUS

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

The BJP has struggled to establish a foothold on its own in Tamil Nadu, where politics has been dominated by the Dravidian majors for more than five decades, but the party has gained momentum in the State in recent years.

The BJP was long viewed as a "North Indian" party, with the Dravidian majors, particularly the DMK, carefully constructing a narrative portraying the BJP as a political outsider in the State.

In its initial years, the BJP's presence in Tamil Nadu was limited to certain pockets. It relied heavily on the members and ideological backing of the RSS. A series of communal clashes at Mandaikadu in Kanniyakumari district in 1982 led to considerable demographic polarisation and provided an opening for Hindutva politics in that region. In the 1984 Assembly election, V. Balachandran, an Independent candidate backed by the Hindu Munnani, won the Padmanabhapuram seat with 28,465 votes, defeating M. Vincent of the AIADMK by a margin of 4,317 votes.

Hindutva gains ground

Most BJP candidates polled only several hundred to a few thousand votes in that election, but M.R. Gandhi, who contested from Colachel, secured over 32,000 votes, losing by just 589 votes. This result reflected how Hindutva politics was gaining ground in the district. Mr. Gandhi is now the MLA representing Nagercoil.

The BJP has made repeated attempts to win Padmanabhapuram and other Assembly segments in Kanniyakumari district. C. Velayuthan, a local face of the BJP, tried his luck several times and finally succeeded in 1996, becoming the BJP's first MLA in Tamil Nadu. He defeated the DMK's Bala Janathipathy by 4,540 votes, braving a pro-DMK-TMC wave. In the same election, the BJP also secured the second position in Nagercoil, Colachel, and Killyoor in the district.

Garnering support: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders greeting supporters in Chennai. FILE PHOTO

Making inroads

The table shows the performance of BJP in Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu

Election	Number of seats contested	Number of seats won	Vote share in %
1980	10	-	0.07
1984	15	-	0.25
1989	31	-	0.35
1991	99	-	1.7
1996	143	1	1.81
2001	21	4	3.19
2006	225	-	2.02
2011	204	-	2.22
2016	188	-	2.84
2021	20	4	2.62

By the turn of the millennium, the BJP had tasted more success by aligning with the AIADMK and DMK during the 1998 and 1999 parliamentary polls, respectively. In 2001, joining hands with the DMK, four of its candidates entered the Assembly: H. Raja from Karaikudi, Jaga Veerapandian from Mayiladuthurai, K.V. Muralidharan from Thalli, and K.N. Lakshmanan from Mylapore. Contesting 21 seats, the party secured a vote share of 3.19%.

Thereafter, in 2006, contesting in 225 constituencies, it drew a blank, forfeiting deposits in 221 seats. Going alone, the BJP failed to open its account in both 2011 and 2016.

Finally, BJP nominees entered the Assembly again in 2021, in alliance with the AIADMK, winning four out of 20 seats. Former AIADMK Minister and incumbent BJP State president Nainar Nagenthran won from Tirunelveli, his home turf, while Mr. Gandhi, Vanathi Srinivasan, and C. Saraswathi won from Nagercoil, Coimbatore (South), and Modakurichi, respectively. The party secured a 2.62% vote share.

Sustained efforts

After the passing of Dravidian stalwarts Jayalalithaa and M. Karunanidhi, the BJP has gained momentum in Tamil Nadu's political discourse. The rise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the confusions within the AIADMK, along with the sustained efforts of recent BJP State presidents Tamilisai Soundararajan, L. Murugan, and K. Annamalai, helped the party gain strength.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the BJP formed a third front with parties such as the Pattali Makkal Katchi and Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam, acting as an alternative to the Dravidian majors. The BJP polled 11.24% of the vote, but failed to win any seats. In fact, BJP candidates were not even able to secure a lead in any of the Assembly segments.

In the 2026 Assembly polls, the party has been allocated 27 seats as part of the AIADMK-led NDA. With Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) and Tamilaga Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam contesting on the BJP's symbol, the total number of official BJP nominees goes up to 33. This is the highest number of seats ever contested by the party as part of an alliance with the Dravidian majors, and it is now hoping it can convert its momentum to better its representation.

BJP and the shifting political balance in Kerala

Varghese K. George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The BJP's emergence has turned around Kerala's political balance, as indicated in the following two facts.

First, traditional regional rivals, the Congress-led UDF and the CPI-M-led LDF, are defining their contest with reference to the BJP. Each accuse the other of being weak in fighting the BJP or even colluding with it. The BJP, meanwhile, says the UDF and the LDF are in a fake fight in Kerala while they are partners everywhere else across the country.

Second, all three formations agree on a key question that roiled the State's politics over the past eight years, stirring a Hindu consciousness: the entry of women of menstruating age into the Sabarimala shrine. All three now agree that they should not be entering. As the Supreme Court took up a batch of petitions that will revisit its earlier Sabarimala verdict that allowed the entry of women of menstruating age, Kerala's LDF government and the BJP government at the Centre took similar views, favouring a continuation of the practice. The LDF has abandoned its strident position in favour of women's entry, in response to the strong backlash among Hindu communities.

The emergence of an identifiable Hindu vote is unmistakable in the State, but how that will influence the electoral dynamics remains an open question.

Gaining ground: BJP supporters on the final day of campaigning for the Assembly election in Thiruvananthapuram. PTI

The performance of the BJP in recent elections provides context. Its vote share fell from 16% in the 2016 Assembly election to 11.5% in the 2021 Assembly election, before recovering to 16.7% in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. It won its first Assembly seat in 2016, when O. Rajagopal won from Nemom, but lost it in 2021. In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the BJP won the Thrissur seat and came second in Thiruvananthapuram and Attingal, while also finishing second in Assembly segments across Alappuzha.

The community composition of the State is the biggest speed-breaker for the BJP. According to the 2011 Census, Kerala has 54.7% Hindus, 26.6% Muslims and 18.4% Christians, who are split across multiple denominations. The BJP is banking on an apparent tension between Christians and Muslims to make its way in the State. The party has fielded several leaders from the community. Campaigning for Anoop Antony Joseph, the BJP candidate in Thiruvalla – a region of Syrian Christian influence – Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Hindus and Christians were victims of communal fanaticism, asking them to unite.

Avoiding a split

The UDF's chances are dependent on its success in avoiding a split between its Christian and Muslim supporters, while stopping an erosion of its Hindu voters. Christians are sceptical of the influence of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) within the UDF. There are demographic and economic reasons for the tensions. The birth rates among Christians and Hindus are lower than those of Muslims in the State. While a large number of Christian and Hindu youth are migrating permanently to the West, the migration of Muslims is temporary. Christian community leaders lament property alienation and the expanding presence of Muslims in local businesses in traditional strongholds. Sensing the danger of a Christian-Muslim split, the IUML has said it would not be looking for the post of Deputy Chief Minister or making any specific claims over portfolios or ministerial berths.

The Congress and the UDF both have too many leaders and too few workers – a situation at least partly explained by the population decline in the State, which is ageing and losing people to migration. The shrinkage of party activists is affecting the Congress the most, but the Left is also not unaffected.

In 2021, Pinarayi Vijayan was the beneficiary of the social realignments in the State. The CPI(M) made up for the loss of its Hindu voters to the BJP by roping in considerable segments of Christians and Muslims in southern districts, and won an unprecedented second term. The UDF ended up as the loser. This time, the dynamics are different. Mr. Vijayan and the LDF are focused on reconstituting their traditional Hindu votes. Not only has the government changed its views on Sabarimala with regard to women, it also organised a convention of devotees, attended by Mr. Vijayan. A letter from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was read out at the event by a Kerala Minister. SNDP Yogam leader Vellappally Natesan, who repeatedly makes anti-Muslim jibes, is rooting for Mr. Vijayan in this election.

Given the criss-crossing of communities across the three formations, it is difficult to anticipate the numerical outcome – both the LDF and the UDF were losing some of their voters to the BJP, while the LDF was also gaining some from the UDF. The BJP was growing in previous elections, but that is no guarantee that it will continue to grow. The BJP's upward trajectory was abruptly disrupted by the proposed amendments to the FCRA – the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. In Kerala, where Church-run hospitals, schools, and social welfare institutions have historically depended on foreign contributions, the move is widely seen as specially targeting the Christian community. The Centre put the Bill on hold ahead of the elections, but the damage had been done.

There is a possibility that voting will be more polarised than recent elections suggest. Every election gets framed on a particular question, once the campaign meanders through multiple appeasements. The LDF has framed these elections as a mandate for a third consecutive term, without naming Mr. Vijayan as the next Chief Minister. The UDF has framed it as a contest to decide whether Mr. Vijayan should be given a third consecutive term. If the voting gets framed on those lines, it will be a bipolar contest, in which the BJP will be marginalised. At any rate, the BJP is the known unknown of Kerala.

AJUP chief took money from BJP: Trinamool

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Thursday alleged that Aam Janata Unnyan Party (AJUP) chief Humayun Kabir took money from the Bharatiya Janata Party to "plot and mislead" Muslims of West Bengal.

The party shared viral sting operation videos from a conversation between Mr. Kabir and an unidentified man.

The video shared by the Trinamool has a time stamp marked December 19, 2025, in which, Mr. Kabir, who formed the AJUP after being suspended from the Trinamool, was seen speaking to a man not visible on camera. Mr. Kabir was saying that he has a "covert" understanding with the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari that if he manages to secure 70-80 seats and the BJP gets around 100-120 seats in the Assembly polls, Mr. Kabir will offer his support to the BJP to form government and in turn they will make Mr. Kabir the Deputy Chief Minister.

The video has not been individually authenticated or verified by *The Hindu*.

Mr. Kabir denied all the allegations and said if the Trinamool had the courage then it should prove their allegations.

"If they cannot prove their allegations, I will file a ₹2,000 crore defamation case against them," the leader said.

INBRIEF

Work begins on 21-km bullet train tunnel in Mumbai

The lowering and assembly of the tunnel boring machine (TBM) has commenced for the construction of a 16-km-long tunnel between Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and Sawli (near Ghansoli) in Maharashtra for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) officials said on Thursday. The 21-km-long tunnel is being constructed for the project between BKC and Shilphata in Maharashtra. The tunnel also features India's first seven-km-long undersea tunnel beneath Thane Creek. Out of 21 km, 5 km of tunnel using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) is already completed.

HC rejects Sanjay Bhandari's plea against 'fugitive' tag

The Delhi High Court on Thursday upheld a trial court order declaring U.K.-based arms consultant Sanjay Bhandari a "fugitive economic offender" in connection with a money laundering case. On July 5, 2025, the trial court here had declared Mr. Bhandari a "fugitive economic offender" on a plea by the Enforcement Directorate, enabling the agency to confiscate assets worth crores of rupees. The ED had earlier apprised the court of the U.K. court denying the extradition of Mr. Bhandari, 63, to India, citing the unsafe conditions inside the Tihar Jail in Delhi. According to the agency, he fled to London in 2016 soon after the Income Tax (I-T) department raided his premises in Delhi due to tax evasion.

Modi says not enough fish on Bengal plate; Mamata hits back

PM says West Bengal lags behind in fish production but can become a hub of pisciculture and seafood; Chief Minister hits back saying BJP does not allow people to eat fish and has deleted 90 lakh names from electoral rolls to win the election

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Poll call: Prime Minister Modi at a public meeting in Haldia; West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee at a roadshow in North 24 Parganas. ANI/PTI

As the election campaign gained momentum in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday targeted each other on a number of issues, but fish production and consumption emerged as an unusual threat in the political slugfest between the two leaders.

Speaking in the coastal town of Haldia in Purba Medinipur district, the Prime Minister spoke of West Bengal not being self-sufficient in fish production.

"West Bengal has a huge potential for fish cultivation and seafood. This is the power of Medinipur. But in Bengal, even though there is such a huge demand for fish, the State is not self-sufficient for this. They have to get it from outside," Mr. Modi said.

The remarks by the Prime Minister assume significance because there has been an influx of Hilsa fish in West Bengal from Gujarat over the past few years.

Chief Minister Banerjee was quick to respond and said that the State was becoming self-sufficient in fish production, but the BJP does not allow people to eat fish. "I heard that today, he (PM) said that there is no fish production in Bengal, while Bihar is producing more and exporting. But you do not allow people to eat fish in Bihar. Here we purchase fish from markets and eat," Ms. Banerjee said, addressing a gathering in North 24 Parganas. The remarks by Ms. Banerjee came in response to a remark by Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Vijay Kumar Sinha who had vowed a clampdown on shops selling meat and fish in the vicinity of religious places and educational institutions.

While the BJP has been trying to dispel fears among a section of the electorate about imposing vegetarianism in the State, Ms. Banerjee has been saying almost at every rally that the BJP will not allow people of the State to eat fish.

Last month, the BJP candidate from Bidhannagar, Sharadwat Mukherjee, canvassed with a fish in an open market, trying to tell people that the saffron camp would never put any restrictions on non-vegetarian food if it is voted to power in West Bengal.

'Will open files'

Continuing his attack against the Trinamool Congress government, the Prime Minister reiterated that if the BJP comes to power, those involved in crime and corruption will not be spared.

"Whoever has looted Bengal, we will bring all of them to justice. We will settle the score with each and every one of them," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi spoke about six guarantees for the people of the State, promising that that BJP "will restore faith in the rule of law" and under its rule "the administrative machinery will be accountable, fully answerable to the public it serves".

Meanwhile, Ms. Banerjee, addressing a gathering at Minakhan, described the election as "a fight for the survival of the people and the existence of Bengal." "You deleted the names of over 90 lakh people to grab power in Bengal, but we will win," she said, referring to Mr. Modi.

Collect MBBS fees only for four-and-a-half years: NMC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC), the regulatory body for medical education, has issued a public notice instructing medical colleges, institutions, and universities to collect fees for only four-and-a-half years of the MBBS programme, aligning with the statutory regulations and judgments delivered by courts.

The undergraduate medical programme comprises four-and-a-half years of academic study, followed by one year of compulsory rotating internship.

The notice follows reports that certain medical colleges, institutions and universities have been charging fees for five and even five-and-a-half years. "Such practices are not consistent with the prescribed academic structure of the MBBS programme and result in charging fees for periods which do not constitute academic reach," the commission said.

Directing strict adherence to statutory provisions, regulations and judicial rulings, the commission warned that non-compliance will attract action.

Orissa High Court quashes summons to RIL chairman

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The Orissa High Court has quashed a criminal complaint and summoning order issued against Reliance Industries Ltd. Chairman Mukesh Ambani, while also penalising a lawyer for repeatedly filing criminal complaints during his 23-year legal battle from a lower court to the Supreme Court over a defective mobile phone worth ₹501.

Prafulla Kumar Mishra, a lawyer, was aggrieved by a defective handset, which he purchased under a telecom scheme "*Kar Lo Duniya Mutthi Mein*" operated under the Reliance brand.

Disapproving the conduct of the lawyer, the High Court imposed a fine of ₹1,000 for misusing the judicial process.

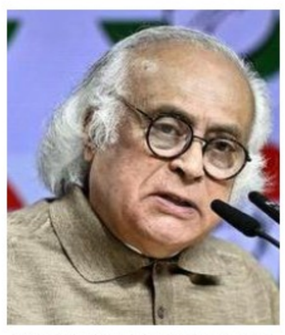
Congress slams Union govt. over withdrawal of bid to host COP33

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government for withdrawing India's bid to host the 2028 global climate summit, COP33, describing the move as a "flip-flop" that raises questions about the Centre's commitment to international climate goals.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said the decision reflected the government's "true commitment" to the Paris Agreement both in "letter and spirit", and casts doubt on its willingness to pursue more ambitious carbon mitigation targets in the near and medium term.

Mr. Ramesh recalled that during the COP28 in Dubai on December 1, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that India would host the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP) in 2028. "Clearly the intention was to milk the global gathering for whatever it is worth in the months before the 2029 Lok Sabha election, just as Mr. Modi did by hosting the G20 Summit a few months before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on social media platform X.



Jairam Ramesh says the move casts doubt on the Centre's willingness to pursue carbon mitigation targets.

However, he noted that it was announced late on Wednesday that India would not host the high-profile 2028 conference, without any explanation from the government.

"No reasons have been given for this sudden decision. It does reflect on the Modi government's true commitment to the Paris Agreement," he said.

Raises doubts

The Congress leader also said the decision raises doubts about the government's readiness to assume greater responsibility in global climate negotiations.

"By 2028, the seventh assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change may get published and this could put greater pressure on India as the Chair of the 2028 Conference to forge a new consensus that would undoubtedly involve a scaling up of ambitions not just for a distant future," Mr. Ramesh said.

He referred to an earlier remark by the Prime Minister on climate change, recalling that he had once told a group of children that "people have changed, climate has not", which he described as "bizarre".

India had proposed to host COP33 during the Prime Minister's address at COP28 in Dubai.

Sources said the government had earlier this week formally communicated its decision to withdraw the offer to the concerned authorities, though no specific reasons were cited for the move.

The Hindu wins three awards at IAA Olive Crown

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Hindu received three awards at the IAA Olive Crown Awards, 2026, held at Taj Lands End, Mumbai.

The newspaper won Gold for 'Glacier Melts Felt' (World Water Day) and 'Stub The Habit' (World No Tobacco Day), and Silver for 'The Last Pack' (World Wildlife Day) campaigns. They were created by Ogilvy and won in the Press Corporate category.

The Olive Crown Awards, organised by the International Advertising Association's India Chapter, recognise communication on sustainability.

L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, said the campaigns aimed to inform readers and encourage change around environmental concerns.

Petroleum Minister to visit Qatar amid gas supply strain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hardeep Singh Puri

Amid the escalating tensions in West Asia and its impact on fuel supplies globally, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri will be heading to Qatar on an official visit on April 9 and 10.

Qatar has been among India's largest suppliers of natural gas. However, amid the escalating tensions, Iran attacked facilities of QatarEnergy, which is among the largest suppliers of natural gas globally.

Production halt

Earlier in March, it instituted a force majeure, halting production of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Mr. Puri met Bangladesh's Foreign Minister earlier this week. Responding to a query about the discussions at the meeting, Randhir Jaiswal, Spokesperson at the Ministry of External Affairs, stated India had been supplying energy products to Bangladesh since 2007 via varied mediums.

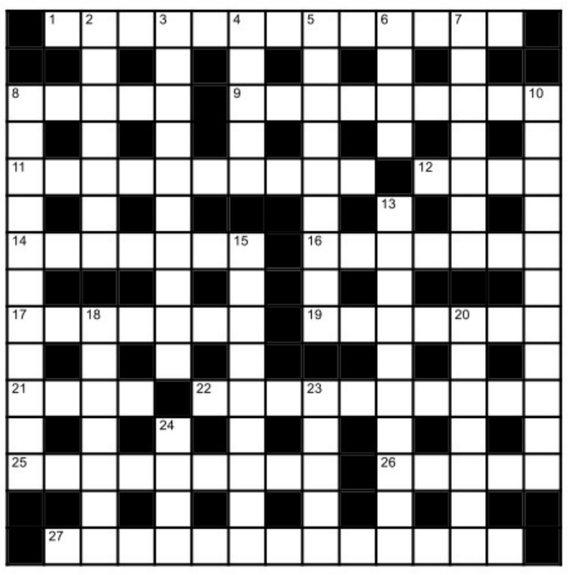
"In recent weeks too, we have supplied energy products to Bangladesh, [also] keeping our domestic interests intact," he said.

CROSSWORD + 14764

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Auto part in British base stolen by brash crooks craftily (5,8)
8 Help to check small elementary particle (5)
9 In agreement with old judge confining primarily obnoxious chaps from the right (2,3,4)
11 Contrived outrageous airlift to pick up spies (10)
12 Worry greatly about onset of epidemic (4)
14 Scold couple of associates receiving fine in Japanese city (7)
16 Knocking back second drink, jerk becomes pliable (7)
17 Fantastic in cameo, getting accolades (7)
19 Right time to break disorganised union's strike (3,4)
21 Agile secret agent catches leader of renegades (4)
22 Shrub in fancy patio outside popular lodge (10)
25 Cheats to tackle university exam that's most tough (9)
26 Kid in extremely tense race (5)
27 Deceptive behaviour in the comedy industry? (5,8)

Down

2 Hack starts to tweet about generating keyword on social media (7)
3 Diseased cows on farm complicated situation (3,2,5)
4 Zodiac crashed, leaving 500 lifeless (5)
5 Snicker about book by a catchphrase inventor (9)
6 Starter of ravioli with fish roll (4)
7 Famous American rapper releasing many new tracks at launch (7)
8 Problem in bar with siren going wild after consuming drink (5-6)
10 Alarming discourse about extremely corrupt members of the board (11)
13 Cuts over umpire's head, getting century in Australian city (10)
15 Couple of Americans outside bar wobble around in a weakened state (2,1,3,3)
18 Reindeer in our cabin! Endlessly troublesome (7)
20 Fools misbehave in retreat after consuming dope (7)
23 Gentlemen at estate eating buns (5)
24 Small boy captivated by cool library ID (4)

SUDOKU

					4	2		
		8	7		1		3	6
					2	7		1
5	2						7	
7			1		9			4
	6						1	5
4		2	3					
8	1		6		7	9		
		7	9					

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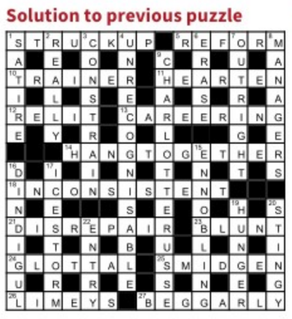
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	9	8	7	4	6	3	1
7	6	8	3	5	1	4	9	2
4	1	3	9	6	2	7	5	8
3	9	2	7	4	5	8	1	6
6	5	4	2	1	8	3	7	9
8	7	1	6	9	3	2	4	5
2	8	7	1	3	9	5	6	4
1	4	6	5	8	7	9	2	3
9	3	5	4	2	6	1	8	7

FAITH

Teachings of Raghavendra

Saint Sri Raghavendra was born at Bhuvanagiri near Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu. His spiritual lineage traces back through revered *Mahaans* such as Prahlada, the great devotee of Lord Vishnu, and later Sri Vyasaraja, a prominent philosopher and saint. Ultimately, Sri Raghavendra attained Jeeva Samadhi at Mantralayam. In a discourse, Smt. Desa Mangayarkarasi emphasised that a Guru is essential for spiritual progress, and that Guru Raghavendra continues to guide his devotees even today from his Brindavana. Guru Raghavendra appears to all of us as a great saint. However, he went through many hardships before becoming such a revered Guru. Earlier, he used to narrate Lord Rama's stories to everyone. He was also a skilled player of Veena. He had deep knowledge of the Vedas and Sastras and possessed great proficiency in Sanskrit.

A well-known incident from his youth highlights his divine power. While preparing sandalwood paste for a group of scholars, he unknowingly chanted the Agni Sukta, a Vedic hymn dedicated to the fire god. As a result, those who applied the paste experienced a burning sensation on their skin. Realising this, he immediately chanted Varuna Sukta, a cooling mantra, which brought instant relief. This incident demonstrates his immense spiritual strength and mastery over Vedic mantras.

Before attaining Jeeva Samadhi, Sri Raghavendra imparted several key teachings for humanity. He stressed the importance of right thinking and right conduct, urging individuals to maintain purity in their thoughts and actions. He believed that one should have complete and unwavering trust in the Guru and the Divine.

INBRIEF

Two India-bound ships among a few transiting strait on Day 2

On Day 2 of ceasefire, ship traffic across Strait of Hormuz, which had slowly increased to 10% of pre-war levels before ceasefire, dwindled to a handful that included two India-bound vessels. With direct talks between Iran and the U.S. scheduled to begin soon in Pakistan, shippers await clarity on the protocols for the transit agreed to by all the stakeholders. Ship tracker websites show that Marivex, an oil tanker with a cargo capacity of 12,800 tonnes, is carrying oil from Bandar Abbas in Iran to New Mangalore Port. MSG, an oil tanker of 7,000 tonnes cargo capacity, is carrying cargo from UAE to India. Both transited the strait late on April 9. Erik Grundt, Senior Analyst at Rystad Energy, talked about how a high-priced contract for cargo on a very large crude carrier likely in the Persian Gulf was considered but cancelled soon after because of uncertainty. On Thursday, Nour News, an Iranian news website linked to the Supreme National Security Council of the country, published a navigation chart with markings showing two channels close to the Iranian coast that ships entering and exiting the strait should take so as to avoid colliding with anti-ship mines.

'Q4 PAT of Nifty firms will be under pressure due to war'

Net profit of Nifty 50 firms for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2026 is expected to slow down on a year-on year basis due to the price effects of Iran-U.S. war, analysts said. Profit after tax (PAT) of Nifty 50 companies is expected to grow between 0.6% and 6% for the recently concluded quarter going by reports. Elara, while not giving an earnings forecast for Nifty 50, said for the companies in its data coverage, the PAT would grow just by 0.6% in Q4 FY26 as against 0.4% in the same period last year. Motilal Oswal Financial Services report estimated a 6% increase on a year-on-year basis, while Kotak Institutional was far more conservative, forecasting a meagre 2.6% growth rate. According to the Kotak note, this rate of growth is still better than that of Q4 FY25, when the PAT declined 3%. The past two years have been painful for corporate India as compared with the March quarter of fiscal 2024, when the PAT of Nifty 50 increased 7.9% on a year-on-year basis, Kotak said.

Govt., IT sector studying Anthropic model's cybersecurity implications

Claude's new LLM has found security vulnerabilities over a decade old in widely used software; as large U.S. firms get early access, Indian firms, IT Ministry are examining what lies ahead; experts flag ramifications of such models' availability to all

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Indian IT industry and the Union government are studying the ramifications of Claude Mythos, Anthropic's unreleased model that has been billed as a powerful scanner - and potentially a vector - of undiscovered security vulnerabilities across the world's most widely used computer systems.

The Hindu has learnt that officials in the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry and at the Computer Emergency Response Team, India (CERT-in) are deliberating what Mythos's capabilities could mean in the coming days, even as a consortium of American firms, in partnership with Anthropic, rushes to patch software vulnerabilities that human cybersecurity experts have not hitherto spotted or fixed. Word of Mythos has spread rapidly in cybersecurity circles since the announcement of Project Glasswing, a consortium of 40 companies and open-source code maintainers to whom Anthropic is giving early access of the LLM, with a $100 million budget to perform scans of the vast codebases that power other IT systems around the world, including in India.

Anthropic said it has already found several vulnerabilities in softwares such as OpenBSD, FFMPEG and the Linux kernel, systems that are deeply embedded in computers and servers globally, spurring the firm to work with their developers as much as possible in patching bugs before making the model public.

The task masters

A consortium of U.S. firms and Anthropic are rushing to patch software vulnerabilities human experts have not fixed

- Project Glasswing is a consortium of 40 companies and open-source code maintainers to whom Anthropic is giving early access of the LLM
- This involves a $100 million budget to perform scans of vast codebases that power other IT systems around the world, including India

No Indian firm appears in the partial list of partners that Anthropic published. This does not mean, however, that Project Glasswing will not benefit Indian firms at all. Since IT firms generally use a "tech stack" that combines hardware and software from a variety of vendors, including several products from Glasswing partners, it is likely that patches being released in the coming days will close off certain security gaps in Indian firms.

'Entire tsunami'

"The more relevant question is whether Indian firms are investing enough in their own security posture on top of that shared infrastructure, because that part is entirely on them," Pawan Prabhat, a co-founder of the LLM deployment startup Shorthills AI, told *The Hindu*.

As such, the IT enterprise services (ITeS) industry may be anxious to be a bigger part of the conversation that Anthropic is having, since systems integrators tend to craft bespoke code for customers, which may suddenly be at risk of being targeted by novel infiltration techniques when Mythos and more powerful models become available to the public. Infosys, which announced a partnership with Anthropic during the AI Impact Summit, declined to comment on whether it was a Glasswing partner due to its financial reporting silent period.

Vinayak Godse, the CEO of the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) under Nasscom, the main cybersecurity forum for the Indian IT industry, told *The Hindu* in a telephonic interview from Singapore that the council has been holding meetings with different verticals of IT firms in India to get a handle on the unfolding situation. Mr. Godse welcomed Glasswing as an initiative, hailing Anthropic as a "responsible" player for not releasing it just yet.

"If something happened to the underlying core infrastructure (like a router made by Cisco, for example), the impact will be catastrophic," he said.

Mr. Godse pointed to a particularly vulnerable group: product companies. "Imagine if this model is available for everyone to use, what happens to the entire Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) plus deep tech product ecosystem across the globe," he asked.

The latter, he said, "is not only digital, but present in the physical world: systems like Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems [used in manufacturing and public utilities setups], internet of things (IoT) systems, and so on."

"It's an entire tsunami coming in," Mr. Godse said.

DSCI declined to comment whether it was having any India-focused conversations with Anthropic, which has an office in Bengaluru. In absolute numbers, India is Anthropic's second largest market. The firm, which did not respond to a query by *The Hindu* on the role planned for Indian firms in Project Glasswing, has shot to prominence in recent months due to its extremely software-capable LLMs.

Those capabilities have impacted Indian IT firms' stock prices, even as the government encourages Indian firms to move fast on deploying AI.

Soft targets

Government IT systems could be especially vulnerable to attacks, as their security readiness varies widely between different Ministries, States and departments. But Mr. Godse said that he was confident that CERT-in and government departments would be able to respond quickly to threats, as he assessed the state response to widespread attacks on government servers last year during the India-Pakistan conflict as a positive signal.

"Government systems like Aadhaar and GST run on older codebases," pointed out Srinivas Padmanabhuni, the chief technology officer at the LLM testing firm AiEnsured. "These are exactly the kinds of systems where Mythos has already demonstrated the ability to find vulnerabilities that stayed hidden for decades." Mr. Prabhat of Shorthills AI said that government systems "might not be of primary interest to professional hackers who are in it for financial gain, but inimical states are a different matter."

For firms that position themselves as indigenous alternatives to foreign tech stacks, Mythos turns up an unenviable dilemma: should they act to subject their systems to an audit by an American LLM, or risk the consequences of holding off on hardening their systems with Mythos-level tools?

Indians have typically excelled in spotting security vulnerabilities, with researchers chasing "bug bounties" to find serious vulnerabilities, which when disclosed to tech firms can fetch a handsome financial reward.

Mr. Godse noted that this group of researchers may see their work impacted by Mythos. Mythos's long-term impact could also hinge on the outcome of a longstanding cybersecurity debate: are software vulnerabilities "dense" or "sparse"? In other words, are there infinitely many vulnerabilities in code that are just waiting for a way to be exploited by attackers, or are they rare chinks in otherwise solid armour?

Nicholas Carlini, an Anthropic researcher, was asked about this debate after a talk in March where he laid out the performance of Opus, the most powerful Claude model available to the public, in finding bugs. It performed shockingly well, he said in its presentation.

Indian team to visit U.S. this month to discuss trade deal currently stuck in limbo

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

A team of negotiators from India will be visiting the U.S. later this month to discuss the interim trade deal between the two countries, which currently lies in limbo, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has confirmed to *The Hindu*. U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor posted a similar message on X, as well.

India and the U.S. in early February 2026 issued a joint statement saying they have agreed on a framework for an interim trade deal. The deal itself was to have been signed in March, and come into effect by April. However, soon after the announcement, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the reciprocal tariffs levied by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Following this, the U.S. launched various trade and labour related investigations on several economies, including India. The U.S. can theoretically levy tariffs on other countries on the basis of these investigations, once they are concluded. A timeline for completion has not yet been revealed.

U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Thursday posted on X that he had had a "highly productive" meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to discuss "advancing Mr. Trump's trade priorities in South and Central Asia".

When asked, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry confirmed to *The Hindu* that this trip would be happening, but added that the "details are being worked out".

Reining in medicine prices despite war impact on inputs, says official

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

A senior official in India's Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers said there has been no major rise in prices of pharmaceutical drugs despite the West Asia war impacting global supply chains of some essential inputs, particularly solvents and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

The Centre is working to ensure continuous flow of inputs.

The Centre has taken note of the disruptions and devising strategies to meet the challenges, Joint Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals Satyaprakash T. L. said, adding propylene, ammonia and methanol were the key solvents the pharmaceutical industry needs and whose supplies have been affected. Butanol is needed in smaller quantities for certain antibiotics. Propylene remains the most critical input since it is used in Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) and Isobutyl Benzene production, which are used in medicines such as Ibuprofen. A significant share of propylene supply is being met through BPCL's Kochi and Mumbai refineries and supplied to major manufacturers of Isopropyl Alcohol.

Uninterrupted supply

The Ministry and the Department are working in coordination with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential inputs for pharmaceutical manufacturing, the official said at an inter-ministerial briefing.

With methanol supply emerging as an area of concern, Assam Petrochemicals and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals (GNFC) agreed to supply adequate quantities.

Availability of methylated ammonium products, used as intermediates for medicines, is being closely monitored, he said.

Supplies of aluminium for pharmaceutical packaging faced constraints. Restoration of the supply is 'underway' and expected to normalise within a week, he said.

TCS Q4 net up 12% to ₹13,718 cr., board okays ₹31 final dividend

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31 rose 12% year-on-year to ₹13,718 crore.

For FY26, net profit was up 1.35% to ₹49,210 crore. The board recommended a final dividend of ₹31/share. The total dividend payout in FY26 was estimated at ₹39,571 crore.

In Q4, revenue rose 9.64% to ₹70,698 crore. Annual revenue grew 4.58% to ₹2,67,021 crore. But a 2.4% dip in constant currency terms. FY26 operating margin at 25% grew 70 basis points, the highest in four years, TCS said.

Salary increases

Having laid off thousands of people last year TCS said it implemented annual salary increases across all grades effective April 1. As on March 31, the head count was 5,84,519.

In a note Equirus Securities said in FY26 headcount slid by 23,460 (3.9% dip). During Q4, growth was led by BFSI (31.1%).

In Q4 region wise in constant currency terms North America grew 2.5%.

CEO and MD K. Krithivasan said "This is the third consecutive quarter of sequential growth, supported by three mega deals and a $12 billion Total Contract Value (TCV), underscoring the strength of five pillar strategy and our AI led positioning across services."

Aarthi Subramanian, ED, president and COO, said "In Q4, our annualised AI revenue surpassed $2.3 billion on accelerated deployment of AI solutions."

Apollo Micro completes blast trials for Limpet mines

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Apollo Micro Systems shares surged Thursday on the back of the defence tech firm announcing successful completion of blast trials for Limpet mines.

"Limpet mines are used in naval defence. We are the only Indian firm to have successfully developed the product for Indian Navy," it said. Shares closed 11.83% higher at ₹232.55 apiece on the BSE.

KMML
The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2026_KMML_848310_1	Supply of Electric Hoists of various capacities
2.	2026_KMML_848309_1	Supply of Key Bricks

Chavara. 10.04.2026 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL JAISALMER
Off Address :- Near Air Force Circle, Jodhpur Road, Jaisalmer - 345001
Ph:- 02992-252503, E-mail: mbj_jsm@yahoo.com
S.No./MCJ Vikash/2025-26/03 Date :- 02.04.2026
RFP NIT No. 34/2025-26 RFP No. DLB2627RFP0001
Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited by Municipal Council Jaisalmer. Details may be seen at our office or at the website of the State Public Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and may be downloaded from these websites from. DLB2627RFP0001
Raj.Samwad/C/26/497 Commissioner

UDAIPUR SMART CITY LIMITED
Abhay Command and Control Centre Building, Nagar Nigam, Town Hall, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
Tel: 0294-2425325, Website: www.udaipursmartcity.in E-mail: uscl2016@gmail.com
NIT No. :- USCL/2026-27/012 Date :- 06/04/2026
NIT Amendment Order
A NIT No. USCL/2025-26/718 was published dated 16.03.2026 for the "Project Management Consultant for Assisting Udaipur Smart City Limited in the Design, Development, Management, and Implementation of USCL Projects, Udaipur." of Rs. 242.68 Lac with UBN No. UNP2526SLOB00172. The bid submission date has been extended up to 15-04-2026, 02:00 PM for interested bidders. Other details of pre-bid clarification and amendment the bid can be accessed on the State Procurement Portals (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.raj.nic.in).
Raj.Samwad/C/26/437 Financial Advisor

राजस्थान सरकार
कौशल, नियोजन एवं उद्यमिता विभाग,
प्राविधिक शिक्षा निदेशालय, राजस्थान, जोधपुर
W-6, गौरव-पथ, जोधपुर
Ph.: 0291-2432290, FAX- 0291-2632339, E-mail- scheme.dot@rajasthan.gov.in
No.: DTE/T-4(SCHEME)/PMPES/4324(3)/2026/60806 दिनांक: 03.04.2026
Corrigendum-III
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2025-26 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किये जो रहे है:—

S. No.	UBN No.	Corrigendum and Addendum
01	UBN No.: TET2526SLOB00140, TET2526SLOB00141, TET2526SLOB00142, TET2526SLOB00143, TET2526SLOB00144, TET2526SLOB00145, TET2526SLOB00146, TET2526SLOB00147	RFP में निम्नानुसार आवश्यक संशोधन किये जा रहे हैं— बिंदु संख्या 01 से 13 तक (संलग्न), Addendum- Shareholder Agreement and License Agreement.

अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।
DIPR/C/6590/2026 निदेशक (प्रशिक्षण)

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GACHIBOWLI, HYDERABAD-500032
Ref:BDL/CC/OT/GT/013/2025-26 Dt: 10.04.2026
e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding

Sl.No.	Tender ID	Description	Estimate in Rs.
1.	66840	Annual rate contract for maintenance and minor civil works at BDL kanchanbagh,Hyderabad	80 Lakhs

Please visit website https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com, select online tenders on dashboard for further details. Bids should be submitted online only. "corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"
*Bidders are Requested to apply for online Vendor Registration in BDL website https://bdl-india.in/registration-contractors prospects.
Additional General Manager (Corp Comml)

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग, अजमेर
क्रमांक:—अमुअ/अज./तक./एफ—2(30ए) निविदा/डी—13 दिनांक:—02.04.2026
NIB No.:-PWD2627A0033
UBN No.:-PWD2627WLOB00118
निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 वर्ष 2026—2027
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से पोस्ट क्वालीफिकेशन पद्धति के अनुसार नागौर जिले में एक सड़क कार्य के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, राजस्थान में पंजीकृत अथवा राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों / केन्द्र सरकार के अधीकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई—प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से ऑन लाईन निविदा प्राप्त की जावेगी। ई—निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
(ई हस्ताक्षर),
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि., संभाग, अजमेर।
DIPR/C/6554/2026

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur
RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost	Start of sale / Last date
ML-130/07.04.2026/ RIS2627WLOB00002	RFP for Rate Contract for Establishment of District Emergency Operation Centre at 13 District of Rajasthan. (Ajmer & Jaipur Zone)	Rs. 7.90 Cr. / Rs. 15,80,000/-	10.04.2026 / 01.05.2026

Details can be seen on the websites http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted through http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/26/559 EE (Civil), DoIT&C

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
टोडरमल लोन, सिविल लाईन्स, अजमेर, Email :- ajmerada@gmail.com,
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749
क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2026-27/राजकाज 21336666 दिनांक :- 08/04/2026
E-TENDER – 59/ 2025-26
Bids for Providing and Fixing HVAC System in Surgical Block JLN Hospital, Ajmer amounting Rs. 649.74 Lacs are invited from interested bidders for up to 22.04.2026, 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada departmental website.
UBN : AJD2627WLOB00001
Raj.Samwad/C/26/578 Executive Engineer

Additional Chief Engineer
Public Health Engineering Department Region-I
Jyoti Nagar, Sahkar Marg, Jaipur
0141-2740170 ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No. ACE/JPR-I/ NIT-03/2025-26/ Date :- 06.04.2026
CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM NO. 02
Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2025-26
In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2025-2026, issued vide this office for the "Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Lalsot, Bandikui, Mandawar and Mandawari, District Dausa including 05 years O&M after 01-year Defect Liability period under AMRUT 2.0.", following amendments are hereby notified:

S.No.	Events	As per CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM NO. 01	Now amended as
1	Availability of bid document.	From 20.02.2026 at 11:00 AM to 06.04.2026 upto 6:00 PM	From 20.02.2026 at 11:00 AM to 21.04.2026 upto 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of bid document	From 20.02.2026 at 11:00 AM to 06.04.2026 upto 6:00 PM	From 20.02.2026 at 11:00 AM to 21.04.2026 upto 6:00 PM
3	Last date & time for Physical Submission of Bid Security and other mandatory Documents	07.04.2026 up to 02:00 PM	22.04.2026 up to 02:00 PM
4	Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid.	07.04.2026 up to 03:00 PM	22.04.2026 up to 03:00 PM

UBN No. - PHE2526WLOB14606
NIB CODE- PHE2526A6764
(Ajay Singh Rathore)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED Region-I, Jaipur
DIPR/C/6652/2026

JERUSALEM

Israel military 'killed secretary to Hezbollah chief' in Beirut strike

REUTERS

Israel's military said on Thursday it had struck and killed a close adviser to Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem in Beirut a day earlier, when Israeli strikes pummelled Lebanon. "Yesterday, the IDF struck in the Beirut area and eliminated Ali Yusuf Harshi, the personal secretary and nephew of Qassem," a military statement said. AFP

BEIRUT

Group rejects direct talks between Lebanon, Israel, says Hezbollah MP

REUTERS

Hezbollah lawmaker Ali Fayyad on Thursday reiterated his group's rejection of any direct talks between Lebanon and Israel, after Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered his Cabinet to begin talks with Beirut. A Lebanese official said that the country could only enter negotiations after a ceasefire was announced. AFP

KATHMANDU

Nepal issues arrest warrant for ex-PM Deuba in corruption probe

AFP

Nepal has issued an arrest warrant for former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba for alleged corruption, officials said on Thursday, making him the latest high-profile figure targeted under the new government. Mr. Deuba, 79, who is abroad for medical treatment rejected the accusation of corruption. AFP

MANILA

Philippines opens key coast guard base in disputed South China Sea

AFP

The Philippines unveiled a major coast guard base on Thursday on an island in the South China Sea to serve as a "steadfast sentinel of our sovereignty" in a disputed region closely guarded by China's forces. Surrounded by white beaches, the tadpole-shaped Thitu Island is called Pag-asa — Tagalog for hope. AP

Worried by hits on Iran's nuclear site: IAEA's Grossi

Attacks on nuclear plants, such as the recent strikes inside the premises of Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant, should never happen, says IAEA chief; a candidate for UN Secretary-General, he says UN reform is a process that countries themselves have decided to channel through an intergovernmental process; the international community should ensure that nuclear weapons are never used, he adds

INTERVIEW

Rafael Grossi

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Attacks like the one on Iran's Bushehr nuclear site must never happen again, and the world must avoid a moment where nuclear weapons, even in a limited way, would be used, says Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, welcoming news of the U.S.-Iran ceasefire. In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Grossi, who is running for UN Secretary General this year, says UNSC reform is possible, and that India has a "legitimate" claim to a seat.

What is your reaction to the U.S.-Iran ceasefire, and the talks ahead?

As a diplomat, as a man of peace, as the head of an international organisation in the area of peace and international security, I would say that we are relieved and we are happy to see that at least, for some time, the war is stopping, and that an opening is there in front of us for diplomacy. The IAEA will play a constructive role to support these processes, as we have been doing in the past.

How worried are you that the kind of conflict we've seen already, the strikes near Bushehr, Isfahan, other nuclear sites, have had a dangerous impact?

Specifically on radiological consequences, there have been none so far, which doesn't mean that what has been happening is not serious and grave. We were very concerned this past weekend, when a number of direct hits were seen inside the premises of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and we have been in touch, with all sides, Iran, Israel, U.S., and Russia because this is partially operated by the state company Rosatom.

We have been engaging in some consultations with all in order to try to prevent the occurrence of this type of event in the future. So far, so good, but of course, it's something that should never, should never happen.

Was there a point which you were worried, given U.S. President Trump's threats?

The IAEA has been playing a role in two ongoing wars – one that has reached a ceasefire point, and another that hasn't, between

Russia and Ukraine, so we're always on a state of alert.

Thanks to the very efficient work of mediation, [India's] neighbours in Pakistan, Egypt and some others trying to bring the two belligerents together, [we have a ceasefire]. Of course, there was a concern, but at the same time, as even President Trump was saying that there were intense negotiations ongoing, there was hope. We see that the [nuclear threat] is not hypothetical. It is a moment of reflection where we as the international community, the IAEA, the United Nations, have to make sure that we do not get to a moment where nuclear weapons, even in a limited way, would be used.

You are a candidate for the UN Secretary General elections this year. What is your agenda?

War has returned in a furious way to different parts of the world, even in your country and the neighbourhood (India-Pakistan), and in Cambodia-Thailand, Azerbaijan-Armenia, Sudan-South Sudan, Ukraine and Russia.

I think we need to remember why the United Nations was established after the cataclysmic events of the Second World War. The IAEA and I have been engaged with the belligerents. We have been preventing nuclear accidents, we have been trying to move into the solution of this issue in Iran. This is what inspired me for the [UNSG post].

Can you offer a way forward on UNSC reforms, which seem stuck?

Obviously, the Secretary General does not have a magic wand. This is a process that countries themselves have decided to channel through an intergovernmental negotiating process. The UN Secretary General can do a lot in terms of having conversations, in terms of bringing people together, and in recognising the role of countries. India has a global role and a legitimate aspiration.

India rejects UN involvement in the Kashmir dispute and has also asked the UN monitoring group on India and Pakistan to wind up its operations. As UN Secretary General, what would be your stand?

I think it's a matter that needs to be discussed. I am very aware of the position of India, and also of Pakistan. I think it's important that we recognise that, as it happened just a few months ago (May 2025), there is an issue of instability, that needs to be addressed in dialogue with all the parties.

You were involved very closely with India about a decade ago at Nuclear Suppliers Group, over its application for membership, that hasn't come through yet. Is there any chance of that now?

As chair of the nuclear suppliers group (2016), I was pushing for an NSG that would be reflective and inclusive of all the big players in the nuclear industry. India continues to be one, which by the way, deserves to be congratulated for the very recent breakthrough in terms of the criticality of a fast breeder reactor (Kalpakkam). At that time, we were not so far from getting it, I continue to be optimistic about the possibility [of India's membership]. *(Full interview at newsth.live/grossi)*

U.S.-Iran truce is on shaky ground

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

It took only hours for the U.S.-Iran ceasefire, announced by President Donald Trump on Wednesday, to drift into uncharted territory.

Mr. Trump said the truce would take effect immediately subject to Iran reopening the Strait of Hormuz, and future talks would be held based on Iran's 10-point proposal. Tehran said it would honour the ceasefire and allow "safe passage" of tankers through the Strait. Pakistan, which mediated the deal, said the ceasefire applied on all fronts, including Lebanon. But there was a catch: for the ceasefire to prevail in Lebanon, Israel would have to halt its bombing and ground invasion. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not ready for that – not yet.

Mr. Netanyahu's office welcomed the U.S.-Iran ceasefire, but added that Lebanon was not part of the agreement, directly contradicting the Pakistani claim. In the subsequent hours, Israel carried out its heaviest attack on Lebanon since the war began, hitting some 100 targets and killing at least 303 people and wounding more than 1,150 others.

Iran accused Israel of violating the ceasefire. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's statement, highlighting the reference to Lebanon, and said: "The Iran-U.S. Ceasefire terms are clear and explicit: the U.S. must choose – ceasefire or continued war via Israel. It cannot have both." Iran's *Fars* news agency reported that tankers were being stopped at the Strait of Hormuz. So, Lebanon emerged as the first friction point in the ceasefire, but not the only one.

Peace negotiations: The Serena Hotel, which is the expected venue for U.S.-Iran talks, in Islamabad on Thursday. AFP

On Wednesday evening, Mr. Trump said, "there will be no enrichment of uranium" in Iran. He added that the U.S. will work with Tehran to "dig up and remove all the deeply buried nuclear 'dust'," referring to U.S. strikes on Iran's nuclear plants in June 2025.

According to the 10-point proposal Iran's Supreme National Security Council released on Wednesday, Iran will retain the right to enrich uranium and exercise its control over the Strait of Hormuz. It has also demanded a ceasefire on all fronts, including Lebanon, war reparations, and the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from the Persian Gulf region.

Divergent versions

The White House said the 10 points it received from Iran were different from the 10 points Tehran has released. U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance said there was a "legitimate misunderstanding" on the ceasefire terms. "I think the Iranians thought that the ceasefire included Lebanon, and it just didn't. We never made that promise."

Mr. Trump called the Iranian proposal a "fake 10-point plan". "No nuclear weapons and the Strait of Hormuz will be open and safe", he wrote in a social media post, adding that if Iran did not implement the agreement, "shooting" would start.

Mohammed-Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's Parliament Speaker, has said the country's 10-point proposal was genuine and cited three major violations of the ceasefire. Referring to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's assertion that ceasefire should include Lebanon, Mr. Ghalibaf said Israel's continued attacks on the country was the first violation. He also said a drone entered into Iran's air space, "which was destroyed in the city of Lar [in the south, close to the Gulf coast], in clear violation of the clause prohibiting any further violation of Iran's air space". Thirdly, according to Mr. Ghalibaf, the denial of "Iran's right to enrichment, which was included in the sixth clause of the framework [10-point plan]".

Alleging that the ceasefire was breached even before the negotiations began, Mr. Ghalibaf said, "in such [a] situation, a bilateral ceasefire or negotiations is unreasonable".

Iran's *Tasnim* news agency reported on Thursday (April 9) that Israeli violations could lead to Iran's exit from the ceasefire deal. "Iran is currently considering the possibility of exiting the ceasefire agreement in light of the ongoing violations by the Zionist regime regarding its military operations against Lebanon," the report said quoting an Iranian official.

Fragile but not broken

While the truce remains fragile, it hasn't collapsed yet. Iran has not officially withdrawn from the deal. There have been no major U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran or Iranian retaliatory attacks.

Mr. Trump's decision to send Mr. Vance to Islamabad for talks suggests the President wants to stick to his off-ramp. Tehran had insisted that a senior administration official join the talks, rather than relying solely on Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's envoy for West Asia, and Jared Kushner, the President's son-in-law.

In June 2025 and February 2026, Iranian negotiators were in talks with Mr. Witkoff and Mr. Kushner when Israel and the U.S. launched attacks on Iran. Mr. Trump gave in. But for peace to take hold, three issues need to be resolved – the war on Lebanon; Iran's enrichment rights; and the framework of a broader peace deal.

Israel's strikes in Lebanon spark condemnation from rights bodies

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The world had barely caught its breath as a U.S.-Iran ceasefire came into force for two weeks on Wednesday, when Israel intensified its attacks on Lebanon, killing over 300 people.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while backing the two-week pause on U.S. strikes against Iran, said the ceasefire does not include Lebanon. Reports and visuals from Beirut showed drones and missile strikes on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, sparking wide outrage, with global rights bodies condemning the attacks that Mr. Netanyahu claimed were targeting the Hezbollah militant group.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was outraged by "the devastating death and destruction" in densely populated areas across Lebanon, following intensified military operations.

Deadly attack: A man inspects the site of an Israeli strike in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon on Thursday. REUTERS

Responding to the unprecedented escalation by the Israeli military, rights watchdog Amnesty International's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Heba Morayef said: "Just hours after the world cautiously welcomed news of a U.S.-Israeli ceasefire with Iran, in Lebanon the nightmare for civilians has become more terrifying...Even before today's attack, which the Israeli military referred to as operation 'Eternal Darkness', more than 1,500 people had been killed and over a million people displaced from their homes across the country."

Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, said in a social media post: "As the pause in Israel-U.S. military aggression on Iran takes effect, Israel escalates its war crimes in Lebanon with the same vindictiveness used for decades against Palestinians. Israeli crimes remain a threat to peace in the region and beyond. They must be stopped and punished."

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk said: "The scale of the killing and destruction in Lebanon today is nothing short of horrific. Such carnage, within hours of agreeing to a ceasefire with Iran, defies belief."

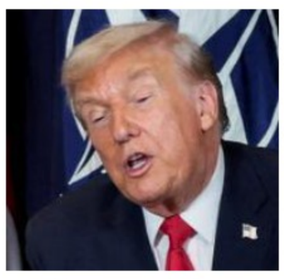
Israel has issued warnings and displacement orders covering approximately 14% of Lebanon, including the whole region south of the Zahrani river, most of Beirut's southern suburbs and parts of the Beqaa region.

'U.S. military to stay deployed near Iran'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said late Wednesday that U.S. forces deployed near Iran would remain stationed in the area until a "real agreement" is reached, as Washington enters a fragile two-week ceasefire with Tehran.

The truce reached on Tuesday showed signs of unravelling, with Israel bombarding Lebanon and Washington contradicting some of Iran's demands to end the war ahead of planned talks.



Donald Trump

"All U.S. Ships, Aircraft, and Military Personnel, with additional Ammunition, Weaponry, and anything else that is appropriate and necessary for the lethal prosecution and destruction of an already substantially degraded Enemy, will remain in place in, and around, Iran, until such time as the REAL AGREEMENT reached is fully complied with," Mr. Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

While he said a deal falling through was "highly unlikely," Mr. Trump threatened to revert to "bigger, and better, and stronger" strikes if an agreement was not reached.

Iran agreed to reopen the vital thoroughfare during the two-week truce, but said it would maintain "dominion" over it. The Strait of Hormuz is a key chokepoint through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes in peacetime.

PASSIONATE

Gopinath was deeply committed to the game: BCCI president

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

C.D. Gopinath not only contributed for India but also played a key role in Madras' early successes. His continued association with the game as chairman of the selection committee and manager reflected his deep commitment to cricket. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones — Mithun Manhas.

DEDICATED

'Association with Indian cricket remained strong over the years'

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

C.D. Gopinath belonged to a generation that shaped Indian cricket in its formative years. Being part of India's first Test win in 1952 *(team above)* is a distinction that will always be remembered. He continued to contribute after his playing days and association with Indian cricket remained strong — Devajit Saikia, BCCI secretary.

BACKING HIMSELF

You cannot fault Miller's intent of keeping the strike: Gavaskar

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

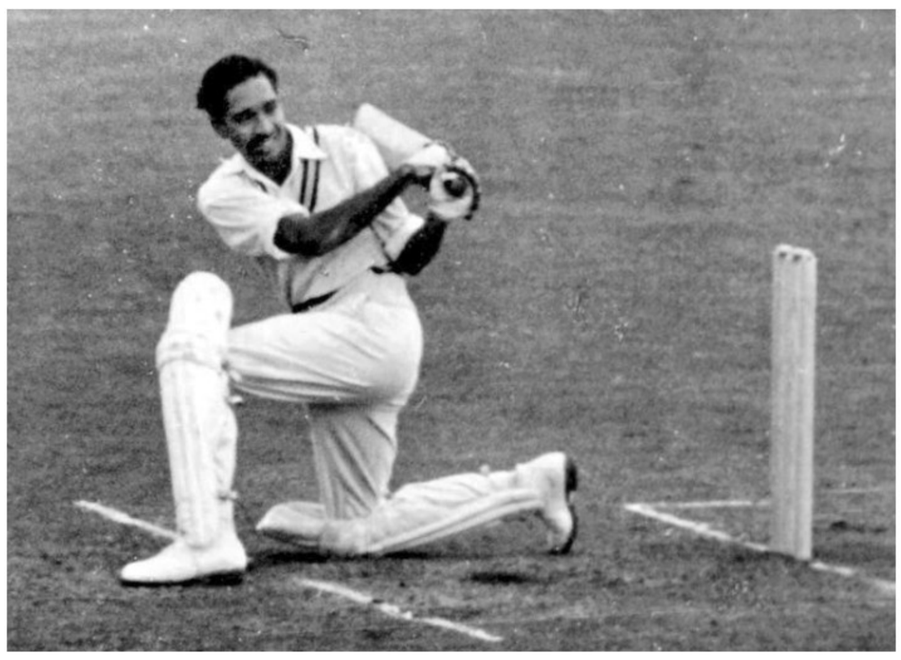
Sunil Gavaskar defended Delhi Capitals batter David Miller's refusal to take a single off the penultimate ball of the chase against Gujarat Titans. "Miller was backing himself. He had been striking the ball well and believed he could finish it. You can't fault that intent. In the end, it also came down to execution," Gavaskar told *JioHotstar*.

PUNISHMENT

Titans skipper Gill fined for slow over-rate in the win over Capitals

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill was fined ₹12 lakh after his side maintained a slow over-rate in the win over Delhi Capitals. "As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Gill was fined ₹12 lakh," the IPL said in a statement.



Elegance personified: Gopinath, a stylish batter, impressed on his Test debut. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

C.D. Gopinath, India's oldest Test cricketer, passes away

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Former India cricketer C.D. Gopinath passed away here on Thursday. He was 96.

Gopinath had been India's oldest Test cricketer and the last member of the country's maiden Test win against England in 1952. He is survived by wife Comala, three children and grandchildren.

A right-handed batter, Gopinath featured in eight Tests for India between 1951 and 1960 and scored 242 runs with a highest score of 50 not out.

In an accomplished First Class career, Gopinath played 83 games for Madras and accumulated 4,259 runs at a healthy average of 42.16, including nine centuries and 23 half-centuries.

He was a key member of the Ranji Trophy-winning Madras (now Tamil Nadu) squad in the 1954-55 season.

Gopinath dabbled in various sports, including tennis, hockey, football and took to cricket only at the age of 17 during his days at the Madras Christian College.

He quickly rose through the ranks and received his India cap within four years, against the visiting Englishmen at the Brabourne Stadium in 1951.

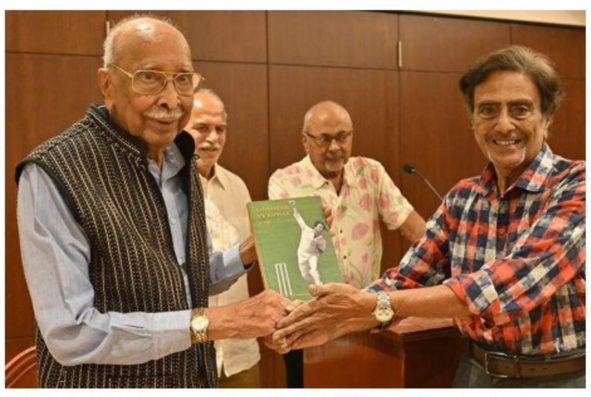
Known to be a stylish batter, Gopinath made an impressive debut, scoring an unbeaten 50 and 42 in the second Test of the series.

In the final Test at the Chepauk stadium, Gopinath scored 35 and stitched a vital 93-run stand for the seventh wicket with Polly Umrigar. India went on to win the match by an innings and eight runs to post its maiden Test victory and draw the five-match series 1-1.

Long association

Former India leg-spinner V.V. Kumar recalled his seven-decade-long association with Gopinath and hailed his captaincy. In 2025, when Kumar turned 90, Gopinath took part in the former's birthday celebrations. "He was my first captain and was instrumental in making me a good leg-spinner. His captaincy was such that he could handle any situation with aplomb," said Kumar.

Special guest: Gopinath catches up on the news as 'Bada Bheem' the gaur keeps watch at his Coonoor residence. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Astute leader: Former India spinner V.V. Kumar says Gopinath could handle any situation with aplomb. FILE PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

"I was lucky to have him. Any player who enters a competitive level like the Ranji Trophy would like to have a captain who understands and guides them properly in crucial situations."

"I would go a further step and say that probably India has missed a very good captain, who didn't get his due share in the years starting from 1952 onwards. He had a vast knowledge of cricketers and what they could do," he added.

Aggressive skipper

Elaborating on his captaincy style, Kumar felt that Gopinath was aggressive in his approach.

"He was the most aggressive captain I had played under. It was an area he specialised in. He taught me how to be aggressive and did not want to bowl just maidens, but attack the batter straight away."

Commenting on his batting, Kumar said that Gopinath was a strong backfoot player. "He was a strong off-side player and had a very good square-cut. One good thing about his batting was that he was quick to judge the length and had a second or two more than the others. Growing up in Madras, he was a very good player of spin," said Kumar.

After his playing career, Gopinath served as chairman of the national selection committee and as team manager on the 1979 tour of England. He was also as an administrator and was the vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association from 1977 to 1986.

The BCCI and the TNCA condoled his demise. "Beyond his achievements on the field, Shri Gopinath was a true gentleman. "His dedication, passion, and exemplary sportsmanship will always be remembered and will continue to inspire generations to come," said the TNCA.

Mukul is the Super Giant as Lucknow pulls off a heist

The little-known batter's unbeaten 27-ball 54 scripts a stunning turnaround to leave KKR winless after four matches; Badoni chips in with a crucial half-century; home side posts 181 despite a mid-innings wobble; Shami delivers an impressive spell

IPL-19

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

The unheralded Mukul Choudhary's late blitzkrieg, an unbeaten 27-ball 54, earned Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) an unbelievable three-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match at the Eden Gardens here on Thursday.

After KKR rode on skipper Ajinkya Rahane, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Cameron Green and Rovman Powell's contributions to set a challenging 182, LSG rallied from a desperate situation to snatch a win from the jaws of defeat.

Audacious strokeplay

The 21-year-old braveheart from Rajasthan displayed his audacious strokeplay on both sides to help LSG score 30 in the last two overs and secure its second win in a thrilling last-ball finish.

LSG began its chase well before Vaibhav Arora removed Aiden Markram and Mitchell Marsh in the fifth over.

A master of these conditions, with the ball holding a bit on a spread of dew, Sunil Narine came back stronger to bowl cleverly and keep the batters quiet.

Green strikes

Green's much-awaited return as a bowler in the ninth over was successful as LSG skipper Rishabh Pant miscued a pull to be caught at short fine-leg.

Other KKR bowlers chipped in to sustain the pressure. LSG lost wickets regularly even as a focused Ayush Badoni (54) scored a fine half-century. Mukul's amazing show down the order kept KKR winless after four matches.

Rookie rocks: Mukul smashed seven sixes and two fours to power Pant's side to an improbable win. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Ajinkya Rahane c Shami b Digvesh 41 *(24b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Finn Allen c Digvesh b Prince 9 *(8b, 2x4)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Markram b Siddharth 45 *(33b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Cameron Green (not out) 32 *(24b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Rinku Singh b Avesh 4 *(7b)*, Rovman Powell (not out) 39 *(24b, 4x4, 2x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-7): 11; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 181.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-15 (Allen, 1.4 overs), 2-99 (Rahane, 10.2), 3-105 (Raghuvanshi, 11.4), 4-111 (Rinku, 13.2).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-27-0, Prince 4-0-47-1, Siddharth 4-0-34-1, Digvesh 4-0-25-1, Avesh 4-0-44-1.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Mitchell Marsh c Raghuvanshi b Vaibhav 15 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Aiden Markram c Powell b Vaibhav 22 *(15b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Tyagi b Green 10 *(9b, 1x4)*, Ayush Badoni **(Impact Player for Siddharth)** c Rinku b Anukul 54 *(34b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Nicholas Pooran c Ramandeep b Tyagi 13 *(15b, 1x6)*, Abdul Samad b Anukul 2 *(4b)*, Mukul Choudhary (not out) 54 *(27b, 2x4, 7x6)*, Mohammed Shami c Anukul b Narine 1 *(3b)*, Avesh Khan (not out) 1 *(3b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-1, w-6): 10; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 182.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-41 (Markram, 4.1), 2-42 (Marsh, 4.3), 3-73 (Pant, 8.2), 4-95 (Pooran, 11.4), 5-104 (Samad, 12.5), 6-125 (Badoni, 14.4), 7-128 (Shami, 15.6).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Vaibhav **(Impact Player for Allen)** 4-0-38-2, Anukul 4-0-32-2, Saini 3-0-37-0, Narine 4-0-13-1, Tyagi 3-0-31-1, Green 2-0-28-1.

Toss: Lucknow Super Giants.
Player-of-the-Match: Mukul.
Super Giants won by three wickets off the final delivery.

Earlier, Rahane and Raghuvanshi batted with composure and punished loose deliveries to help KKR log 56 for one in the PowerPlay before forming an 84-run partnership.

Besides showcasing lovely straight drives, Rahane (41) improvised to pick his areas for big hits.

Promoted, the in-form Raghuvanshi (45) took his time before smartly hammering two fours and a six in consecutive deliveries on the off-side in Avesh Khan's first over.

He also exhibited his range by sweeping M. Siddharth and flicking Avesh over deep fine-leg.

The ploy to send Rinku Singh up did not succeed, but Green (32) and Powell (39) added 70 crucial runs.

While Green displayed patience, Powell presented glimpses of Andre Russell as he flexed his muscle in his cameo. Mohammed Shami, who impressed with his accuracy, pace and movement, stood out with his class as LSG bowled plenty of dot balls.

Next assignment

LSG: April 12 vs. GT
Lucknow, 3.30 p.m.

KKR: April 14 vs. CSK
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Father's obsession triggered Mukul's fascinating journey

Shayan Acharya

A die-hard cricket fan, Dalip Kumar Choudhary wanted his son to play the sport. But, Dalip, hailing from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan, did not know how to fulfil his dream.

There were economic challenges, and resources were scarce in the small district town.

But Dalip never gave up. After teaching in local institutes for a while, he entered the real estate and hotel business.

It was during that time he made it a point to send his son Mukul Choudhary to SBS Cricket Academy in Sikar. Back then, Mukul was a medium-pacer who wanted to sharpen his skills and become the most-sought-after bowler.

But, during one of the matches, the academy side did not have a wicketkeeper. "That's how I took up wicketkeeping," revealed Mukul to *Sportstar*.

Nearly a decade ago, when Mukul joined the academy, he would not have imagined that there would be a bidding war for him at an IPL auction one day.

Turning point

At the auction for the 2026 edition, Lucknow Super Giants eventually picked him for ₹2.60 crore.

"I have heard stories from my mother that my father was so obsessed with cricket that even before I was born, he wanted his son to be a cricketer.

"But it wasn't easy for us to pursue the sport given the financial challenges. However, my father went out of the way to ensure I got everything a cricketer needed," said Mukul, who idolises M.S. Dhoni.

After getting noticed by the junior selectors, Mukul shifted to Jaipur a few years ago to train at the Aravali Cricket Academy.

Though moving to a new city was difficult, Mukul's mother and younger sister accompanied him to ensure he never felt lonely and could focus on his game. Thursday at the Eden Gardens proved he indeed has.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	3	3	0	0	6	2.403
Punjab Kings	3	2	0	1	5	0.637
Royal Challengers	2	2	0	0	4	2.501
Delhi Capitals	3	2	1	0	4	0.811
Lucknow Super Giants	3	2	1	0	4	-0.359
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	0.275
Gujarat Titans	3	1	2	0	2	-0.270
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	-0.715
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	0	3	1	1	-1.315
Chennai Super Kings	3	0	3	0	0	-2.517

Royals, Royal Challengers face off in a battle royale

Parag's men are on the rampage with three successive victories to begin the season; the Patidar-led side, loaded with match-winners, is capable of nullifying the threat posed by the host

IPL-19

P.K. Ajith Kumar
GUWAHATI

Left is right: The flamboyant Suryavanshi comes up against a formidable RCB for whom fellow southpaw Padikkal will aim to continue his good form with the bat. RITU RAJ KONWAR

They have a really good side and some really exciting young players
– PADIKKAL

It hasn't just been reckless hitting. He has picked the balls to hit
– BOND ON SURYAVANSHI

Today's match

RAJASTHAN ROYALS vs. RCB

Guwahati, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 33
RR 14 | RCB 17 | NR 2

PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by **11 runs**, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

It should be a battle royale.

Neither Rajasthan Royals nor Royal Challengers Bengaluru has tasted defeat yet this season. But one of them will on Friday, when the two in-form sides of IPL 2026 come face to face at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium. RR has played three, won three. RCB has played two, won two.

Good start

It wasn't in the most ideal situation that the Rajasthan team began its campaign. RR had finished second from bottom last year and then lost its captain and leading batter for over a decade, Sanju Samson, in a trade-off with Chennai Super Kings. Ahead of the season, Sam Curran, one of the players involved in the Samson deal, was ruled out with an injury.

But now, just about everything looks perfect for Riyan Parag's men.

In Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal, RR boasts the most explosive opening duo in the league this season. While Suryavanshi just aims to send deliveries from every bowler –including the great Jasprit Bumrah – into the stands, Jaiswal paces his innings at will, according to what the team needs. Then there is the classy Dhruv Jurel to take over from them.

In Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger, the franchise has one of the deadliest new-ball attacks, while Ravi Bishnoi has been in top form.

The leg-spinner and his bowling colleagues will be up against RCB's quality batting line-up.

Virat Kohli, who mastered yet another chase in the IPL opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Phil Salt, Devdutt Padikkal and Rajat Patidar have looked good.

Jacob Duffy has spearheaded the bowling attack with aplomb in the absence of Josh Hazlewood and has been complemented by the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Suyash Sharma.

There is plenty to look forward to in the last league match of the season at this venue.

'In T20s, 200-plus scores have become the new benchmark'

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

Big influence: Prabhsimran says he shares a special relationship with former India cricketer Yuvraj. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Seldom do IPL teams entrust the opening duties to two young, uncapped batters.

All the more reason why Punjab Kings' punt to go with Prabhsimran Singh (25) and Priyansh Arya (24) – for the second season running – is commendable.

Captain Shreyas Iyer and coach Ricky Ponting have taken out the fear of failure from the dynamic duo.

"The talk in team meetings is that we don't care about the Orange Cap or the Purple Cap. We have to make such an impact that we can easily win matches for our team," Prabhsimran, who has been with the franchise since 2019, said during a virtual interaction on Thursday.

Fast pace

On the growing demands of being a T20 opener, the wicket-keeper opined: "The game has become so fast now. The benchmark has gone to 200+. If we have to hit, we have to go for it wholeheartedly."

The openers' well-wishers are not just restricted to the PBKS dug-out; they have been training under the watchful eye of Yuvraj Singh.

"My relationship with Yuvi paaji is not that of a coach and student. He is like an elder brother to me. Whenever Priyansh and I get time, we tell him that we want to practice.

" Yuvi *paaji* manages everything himself. We have so much freedom with him that we can even call him at 3-4 in the morning with doubts. We can share anything with him," he added.

Prabhsimran only has good things to say about his Punjab mate Abhishek Sharma. "It feels nice when your teammate does well. I often pray for his form whether he is going through a good or bad run. My nature is like that... you can call it supportive. I get motivated by seeing him. It's like a healthy competition where you understand that if your partner has done well, you can also do the same thing."

As Abhishek's Sunrisers Hyderabad visits New Chandigarh for an IPL showdown on Saturday, maybe it is time for Prabhsimran to claim some brownie points over his opposite number.

An honour and a privilege, says a proud Shastri

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Moment to cherish: Shastri with his family members and Maharashtra CM Fadnavis during the unveiling of the stand while Diana Edulji had a gate named after her at the Wankhede Stadium. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Ravi Shastri, the former India captain, urged young Mumbai players to embrace the grind and uphold the city's rich cricketing legacy after the Ravi Shastri Stand was unveiled at the Wankhede Stadium here on Thursday.

"It's an honour. It's a privilege to get it on the ground," Shastri said moments after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis unveiled the stand on the north side of the stadium. Shastri's family, including his 86-year-old mother Lakshmi, were in attendance.

While listing the illustrious names already associated with the venue, Shastri spoke of the standards expected of Mumbai cricketers. "When you look at the names there (for various stands) – (Sachin) Tendulkar, (Dilip) Vengsarkar, (Sunil) Gavaskar, (Rohit) Sharma, and then, of course, the Gates. It's an association that is rich in tradition. And above all, winners. They win more than anybody else," Shastri said.

Encouraging youth to follow Mumbai's traditional route, Shastri added: "So to get upstairs there, you have to work your backside off. It won't come easy. So whoever is young, whoever is aspiring, there is no shortcut. Take those trains, take those buses, do the rounds of the maidans, play First Class cricket as much as you can, and play whatever cricket is available. That's the only way you will become a better cricketer. The prime example is Sachin Tendulkar."

Besides the Ravi Shastri Stand, the stadium gates in the names of Diana Edulji, the late Dilip Sardesai and the late Eknath Solkar were unveiled. While Edulji was present, the families of Sardesai and Solkar were in attendance to witness the tribute to the Mumbai cricket stalwarts.

Shastri's family – including his mother, wife Ritu and daughter Alekha – was present along with his friends. Sunil Gavaskar, his first Test captain, Dilip Vengsarkar, his long-time India and Mumbai teammate, and Suryakumar Yadav also shared the dais with him.

"To all the cricketers I played with, thank you very much. Because without you all, this stand would have never come in my name. You were all part of it, right from school to club to wherever it goes," Shastri said.

"To my family that's present here, without their support, I don't think I would have made it. There is my mother there, 86, even more obsessed with the game than anyone else. She has watched Test cricket from the 1960s, right from (Garry) Sobers at the CCI to Neil Harvey to the works, Clive Lloyd, Viv Richards. Her favourite was Neil Harvey. And she was a pest. You had to score every game."

PBKS players want to do well for Shreyas, says Connolly

S. Shrivathsan

Connolly. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Punjab Kings may have struck gold with the acquisition of Shreyas Iyer at the IPL mega auction about one and a half years ago.

Under the dynamic leadership of Shreyas, the players have been feeling at home, at a franchise that had been in turmoil for many years. Even the newcomers – welcomed to the PBKS family post mini auction – have settled in seamlessly and hit the ground running.

One such latest recruit who has been revelling operating under Shreyas is Cooper Connolly. "It is always nice to have a positive attitude like the one we have in our group. It is led by Shreyas, who is always positive. He has this thing; he says: 'I have a feeling that we are going to win.' It is not that he is arrogant. It is just that he has confidence in the group and what we can achieve," Connolly said on JioStar Press Room.

"A lot of players follow him, so he leads by example. He is a good person as well, and he is someone who everyone wants to be around. The players want to play under him and do well for him. He deserves that credit," the Australian said of Shreyas, who ended a 11-year wait by guiding Kings to the final last year.

The presence of head coach Ricky Ponting has also been a blessing for youngsters like Connolly. "A bond has been created over the past couple of years, especially by Ponting. He has been outstanding. He is making sure we are all well connected. We have a common goal, and it is quite obvious that Ponting is helping us get better. He is making sure this team is a close group, and I hope that it allows us to succeed," added the 22-year-old.

Connolly will need Ponting's pearls of wisdom when the Punjab side braces for the 'rivalry week' clash against Mumbai Indians in Mumbai on Thursday – it is to be recalled that Shreyas had punctured MI's title hopes in IPL 2025 Qualifier 2.

With Shreyas and Ponting at the helm, PBKS appears to be in safe hands.

Cashing in: Sindarov made Praggnanandhaa pay for a wrong move. FIDE

Vaishali in sole lead; Sindarov bests Pragg

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

R. Vaishali drew with Anna Muzychuk in the 10th round to move into the sole lead, with six points, in the Women's Candidates chess tournament at Pegeia, Cyprus, on Thursday.

The other overnight leader Zhu Jiner was beaten by Bibisara Assaubayeva. Zhu remains on 5.5.

Divya Deshmukh had to pay a heavy price for her unwise pawn-push in a minor-piece ending against Aleksandra Goryachkina, and slid to her second defeat in as many days. With 4.5 points, she is placed second from bottom.

Vaishali's younger brother Praggnanandhaa is on the same boat, following his loss to Javokhir Sindarov, who is very close to winning the title. After the Chennai Grandmaster took his bishop to the wrong square on the 22nd move, fatally as it would turn out, the Uzbek went on to convert his clear advantage into his sixth win of the tournament.

Sindarov has eight points, two more than Anish Giri, who drew with top seed Hikaru Nakamura. Friday is a rest day.

The results (10th round):

Andrey Esipenko (Rus) 3.5 drew with Matthias Bluebaum (Ger) 4.5; Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) 8 bt R. Praggnanandhaa 4; Wei Yi (Chn) 4.5 drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA) 5; Anish Giri (Ned) 6 drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 4.5.

Women: Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 5.5 drew with R. Vaishali 6; Divya Deshmukh 4.5 lost to Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus) 5.5; Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz) Zhu Jiner (Chn); Kateryna Lagno (Rus) 5 drew with Tan Zhongyi (Chn) 3.5.

Janice and Indonesia too strong for India

BJK CUP

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Powering through: Janice hardly put a foot wrong in her match against Sahaja. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

India's hopes of advancing to the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs suffered a blow as it lost 0-3 to Indonesia in the Asia/Oceania Group I contest here on Thursday.

Janice Tjen, the highest-ranked player here, broke no sweat in her 6-2, 6-1 win against Sahaja Yamalapalli in 58 minutes to seal the tie after Vaishnavi Adkar went down fighting to Priska Madelyn Nugroho 6-7(3), 7-6(3), 6-3 in the first match.

The World No. 41 cruised home in the opening set, breaking Sahaja in the first game and taking a 3-1 lead. Though the Indian managed to hold serve for the only time in the set, Janice racked up points to win 6-2 in just 31 minutes.

In the second, Sahaja was able to win just a solitary game, unable to handle her opponent's powerful shots. The 23-year-old Indonesian had won her maiden singles title at the Chennai Open last year.

Janice returned for the doubles match with the experienced Aldila Sutjiadi as partner. The duo defeated Ankita Raina and Rutuja Bhosale 6-3, 7-6(4), handing the Indian pair its first reverse of the week.

Earlier, Vaishnavi battled hard against Priska. She rallied from 3-5, 15-40 down in the first set and saved three set points. Vaishnavi, who mixed her shots well, broke the Indonesian to pull level 5-5 and took the set to a tie-breaker before winning it 7-3.

The second set went Priska's way, again in the tie-breaker.

In the decider, a visibly fatigued Vaishnavi faltered, netting a double-fisted backhand after a three-hour six-minute marathon.

The results: Indonesia bt India 3-0 [Priska Madelyn Nugroho bt Vaishnavi Adkar 6-7(3), 7-6(3), 6-3; Janice Tjen bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-2, 6-1; Aldila Sutjiadi & Janice bt Rutuja Bhosale & Ankita Raina 6-3, 7-6(4)].

Thailand bt Mongolia 3-0 [Thasaporn Naklo bt Anu-Vjin Gantor 6-1, 6-0; Patcharin Cheapchandej bt Khongorzul Aldarkhishig 6-1, 6-0; Peangtarn Plipuech & Kamonwan Yodpetch bt Jargal Altansarnai & Oyungerel Khasbaatar 6-0, 6-1].

Korea bt New Zealand 3-0 [Dayeon Back bt Valentina Ivanov 7-5, 6-3; Sohyun Park bt Monique Barry 6-0, 6-1; Dayeon Back & Eunhye Lee bt Aishi Das & Valentina Ivanov 6-3, 3-6, [10-8]].

Karnataka Forest Department

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Office of the Forest Mobile Sqaud, Bengaluru

Jarakbande Forest Residential Complex, Kammagondanahalli, Bengaluru-560015. Ph: 080-28387672 | E-Mail: dcffms@gmail.com

No: KFD/2026-27/IND0361 **Date: 06.04.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forest Mobile Squad, Bengaluru invites tender in two cover system for **"Design, supply, commissioning and maintenance of digital VHF Radio communication Network at Kodagu Circle"** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**).

The Prospective bidders are advised to visit the (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) website for further details about the tender.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forest Mobile Squad Benglauru & Tender Inviting Authority.

DIPR/CP/JA/128/2026-27

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No: EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / Tender Notification No: 01/ 2026-27: Dated: 04.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.97.40 Lakhs**. The amount of EMD is **Rs.1,95,000/-** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **07.04.2026 to 17.04.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **18.04.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd: **13.04.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 08 Months (Including monsoon). For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL, No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-44-04/ zenkar/2026-27

Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority

#05, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560009
Telephone: 080 - 22341230/35, **e-mail:** bmicapa@gmail.com

No. BMICAPA/CLU-01/112/2025-26 **Date:** 09.04.2026

PUBLICATION

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt Kalavathi.S W/o Ajay Prasad.G has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No: 68/3 extent of 01 Acre- 24½ Guntas. Sy.No: 68/4 extent of 01Acre-09 Guntas and Sy. No:68/5 extent of 01 Acre- 6½ Guntas totally measuring 04 Acre of Dodderi Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) By developing the layout in the above said land, General Public will get the sites for reasonable price. **2)** During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers. **3)** Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands. **4)** By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- **Member Secretary**
BMICAPA, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/117/SA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಸಂ: 01/2026–2027 **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.04.2026**

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-1&4 ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (1) & (3) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ]

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ: 09.04.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ: 06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿ: 13.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 15.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 16.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 17.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 2/4 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 2 (ಎರಡು),

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (2) &(4) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ]

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ: 17.04.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ: 06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿ: 27.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 27.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 28.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 29.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 6/11 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 2 (ಎರಡು), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.300.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.10.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

DIPR/SADMDY/27/2026-27

ಇण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक Indian Overseas Bank

आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with

Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL – PROCUREMENT OF RED HAT RUNTIME AND JBOSS EAP ON SUBSCRIPTION BASIS FOR FIVE-YEAR PERIOD

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7417152 DATED 08.04.2026

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

XXXIX CONVOCATION

The XXXIX Convocation for conferring academic degrees to candidates in respect of PhD, DM, MCh, MD, MS and MDS courses whose terms have been completed till December, 2025 will be held on 27th April, 2026 in the Bhargava Auditorium of PGIMER, Chandigarh. A rehearsal will be held on Sunday, the 26th April, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. in the Bhargava Auditorium. It is compulsory for all recipients of degrees/medals to attend the rehearsal. Those who fail to participate in the rehearsal will not be allowed to take part on the day of Convocation. Kindly intimate the confirmation for participation in the Convocation by 15th April, 2026 through google form link (bit.ly/39convocation). The list of awardees & detailed information is available on the website of the Institute. (http://pgimer.edu.in)

UMMED MATHUR, REGISTRAR

PGI/RC/Advt./2026/HR- 000200

Government of Karnataka

Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri

Email : eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel. No: 08375-232454

This office letter No.2&3/EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-2&3/Tender/ 2026-27/71 & 110 Dated : 06-04-2026 & Dated : 07-08-2026.

E-Tender Notification

On Dated: 07-04-2026 and 08-04-2026 through Karnataka Publi Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following supply and works Indent No. 13950, 13951, 13952, Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **16-04-2026** (upto 4:00 PM) and 25934, 25790, 23182/CALL-2,IIA, 25259, 25242, 25306, 25866, 25373 (1st and 2nd Call) Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **17-04-2026** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit http:// www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Haveri

DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/34/2026-27

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
		EMD (In Rs.)		
BW& PS-2	BWSSB/EEBWPS-2/ 8291/2025-26 Date: 01.04.2026	**Rs. 67.50 Lakhs** **Rs.1.35 Lakhs**	17.04.2026 upto 11.00 AM	18.04.2026 after 11.15 AM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (BW&PS-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/130/NR/2026-27

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited

(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)

(Through KPP portal)

No:BESCOM/CGM(Proj)/DGM-1/AGM-1/BC-14/26-27/CYS10

BESCOM Invites tender for the work of **"Replacement of existing LT Overhead lines into LT AB cable in 4 feeders in O&M Unit-1 of Kanakapura Urban Sub-division of Kanakapura Division"** on Total Turnkey basis under Percentage Quoting basis. Tender Enquiry No. : BESCOM/2026-27/EL/ WORK_INDENT1071. Availability of Bid documents : **15.04.2026 onwards.** Last date for submission of bid Queries : **23.04.2026 before 17:00 Hrs.** Pre-Bid meeting : **24.04.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.** Venue of Pre-Bid meeting : O/o Chief General Manager (Ele), 4th Floor, Project Section, 'B' Block,Corporate Office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bengaluru-560 001. Last date & Time for bid submission : **15.05.2026 before 15:00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bids : **16.05.2026 @ 15:15 Hrs.** The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website: **https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

E-procurement Help Desk No: +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777 E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during office working hours.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.) Projects, BESCOM
E mail: cgmproject.bescom@gmail.com

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KIDWAI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY,

Cancer Research & Training Centre
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION (Regional Centre of Cancer Research & Treatment Member of International Union Against Cancer)

Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bangalore-560029
Ph: +91 080-2656 0722/2656 0723, 080-6669 7999

No:KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/PCC Mysore & Tumkur/503/2025-26 **Date: 09-04-2026**

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online Tenders are invited in Two Bid System for the following through GOK KPP Portal tender for Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Sl No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Items
1	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/ PCC Mysore & Tumkur /503/2025-26 Dt: 09.04.2026	Supply Installation and Commissioning of Medical Equipment. Surgical Instruments, Hospital Furniture and other Miscellaneous to PCC Mysore and Turnkur unit of KMIO (Estimated Cost: 8.00 Cr inclusive of all taxes)
2	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/ M.Equip/DPT/504 /2025-26 Dt: 09.04.2026	Supply Installation and Commissioning of Medical Equipment to the Dept. of Pathology (Estimated Cost: 2.75 Cr inclusive of all taxes)
3	KMIO/SME(1)/Tender/ M.Equip/Anaes/505 /2025-26 Dt: 09.04.2026	Supply Installation and Commissioning of Medical Equipment to the Dept. of Anaesthesia and ICU (Estimated Cost: 5.5 Cr inclusive of all taxes)

The Bid Document will be available in online from **13-04-2026** to **12-05-2026**, Bidders can view and download the Bid Document from the Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Bids have to be submitted through e-Procurement Portal and e-procurement Portal fees. The last date and time of Receipt of Bid through e-Procurement Portal is **12-05-2026** till **4:00 P.M.** Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/ cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Financial Advisor

DIPR/SI/131/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Sri. D Ramaiah S/o. Late Dasegowda (Dasappa) and Sri. D. Srinivas S/o. Dasegowda (Dasappa) have lost the original Mother Deed and Sale Deed dated 12.11.1959 Regd. No. 7487, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, North Taluk, Bangalore, while Transit. The said documents are related property bearing Site No. 13, Survey No. 37, Situated at 3rd Cross, B Block, Subramanya Nagar, Rajajinagar II Stage, Bangalore North-560021, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 50 Feet Totally Measuring 1500 Sqft. If any person/s, who finds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mention address:

K MOHAN Advocate
and Notary No. 54, 8th Cross, Swimming Pool Extension, Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003
Mob: 9448167751.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO NOTIFY the General Public that our client proposes to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property from **Mrs. Anuradha Sridhar,** Wife of Mr.B.Sridhar, Residing at: R501 Purva Park, Cox Town, Behind ITC, Cox Town, Bangalore-560005, who has represented that she purchased the Schedule Property from **M/s. Purva Developments** in terms of a Sale Deed dtd 18/01/2000, registered as Document No.3504/99-2000 in Book-I and stored in C.D No.SNGR CD-10, in the Office of Sub-Registrar Shivajinagar, Bangalore. Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the Schedule property may lodge her objections &/ or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **Fifteen days** from the date of this publication and objections &/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on our client and our client will proceed to purchase the Schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.

:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that Two Bedroom Apartment bearing No.5R-1kb (now identified as R-501) in Fifth Floor of the Block known as "ORCHID" in the Apartment Building Complex known as "PURVA PARK" & Apartment bearing Municipal No.53/219, PID No.86-63-53/ 219, Madras Sapper Officers Colony (M.S.O.Colony), Ward No.86, Bangalore, with a super built-up area of 1070 Sq.Ft along with 0.22 % equivalent to 333.45 Sq.Ft of Undivided Share in the land constructed in Property bearing Municipal No.53, situated at Madras Sapper Officers Colony, Doddigunta Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

YASEEN BABU, K M LEGAL ADVOCATES,
No.2B, WILOCRISA, #14, Rest House Crescent Rd, B'lore-560001, Mob: 98458-55933.
Email: kmlegaladvocates@gmail.com
Bangalore, Date: 10/04/2026.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Karnataka Maritime Board

Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board
Khanija Bhavan, No. 49, West Entrance, 3rd Floor, Racecourse Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Telephone No. 080-29577444 E-mail: ceokmb2019@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION

Sub:Engaging Director Ports and Member (Maritime and IWT operations) on Contractual basis at Karnataka Maritime Board-Reg.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engaging Director Ports and Member (Maritime and IWT operations) at Karnataka Maritime Board on contractual basis for an initial period of one (1) year extendable based on annual performance for a maximum period of two (2) years.

Sl. No	Designation	No of Posts	Pay Scale	Qualification
1	Director Ports and Member (Maritime and IWT operations)	01	Rs. 1,75,000 -2,00,000 (consolidated per month)	1) Must be holder of a Certificate of Competency issued under the Merchant shipping Act, 1958 having validity throughout the Commonwealth as Master in Foreign Going ship; 2) Must have served as Master of a ship 3) Must have experience in Port Administration for not less than ten years in Group-A post equivalent to the port officer of Inland Water Transport under any of the Maritime States in India or the Government of India. 4) Must have the following visual standard with or without glasses namely:

	Right eye	Left eye
Distant Vision	V: 6/6	V: 6/6
Near Vision	0.6	0.6

Each eye must have a full field of vision, squint or any morbid condition of the eye or of the eye lids (Trachoma like) of either eye shall be deemed to be a disqualification; and

5) Must not have attained the age of forty-five years.

Candidates who are eligible for the above post are informed to send their applications to kmb. recruitments@gmail.com **on or before 27.04.2026,** enclosing the scanned copies of Bio data and certificates with passport size colored photograph affixed to the certificate duly attested by the Gazette Officer as per the Proforma given overleaf in the ANNEXURE IN DUPLICATE.

Candidates should bring all the original documents pertaining to their qualification, degree certificates, date of birth, experience and awards if any, etc., produce before the interview committee at the time of Interview. The selection is based on the interview, relevant qualification, experience and roster points as provided by Government of Karnataka (GoK).

No TA and DA will be paid to the candidates appearing for the interview. The appointment is purely on contractual basis for an initial period of one (1) year extendable based on annual performance review for a maximum period of two (2) years and also, appointment under this Notification will not confer any rights on the part of the candidates for any appointment in the Karnataka Maritime Board.

Sd/-, Chief Executive Officer
Karnataka Maritime Board

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/21/26-27 dt.08.04.2026

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/268701_268702_268703 **Date: 07/04/2026**

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sl.No	Brief Name of work	Est. Value (Rs)
1	Construction of new RR masonry compound wall at SMN & PNN colonies, Sullurpeta.	612 Lakhs
2	Construction of Test Control Centre at SMP & ETF area, SDSC SHAR (Civil Works).	799 Lakhs
3	Major Civil Refurbishment Works at Space Central School Sriharikota, SDSC SHAR.	321 Lakhs

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) up to **01/05/2026 14:30 hrs for Sl.no.1 & 2 and 17/04/2026 14:30 hrs for Sl.no.3**. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro** .

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

THE HINDU GROUP

SHOWCASE YOUR INSTITUTION TO KARNATAKA'S FINE YOUNG MINDS

Participate in Karnataka's premier education fair and interact with students seeking the right academic path. We invite:

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- UPSC, NEET & CET Experts
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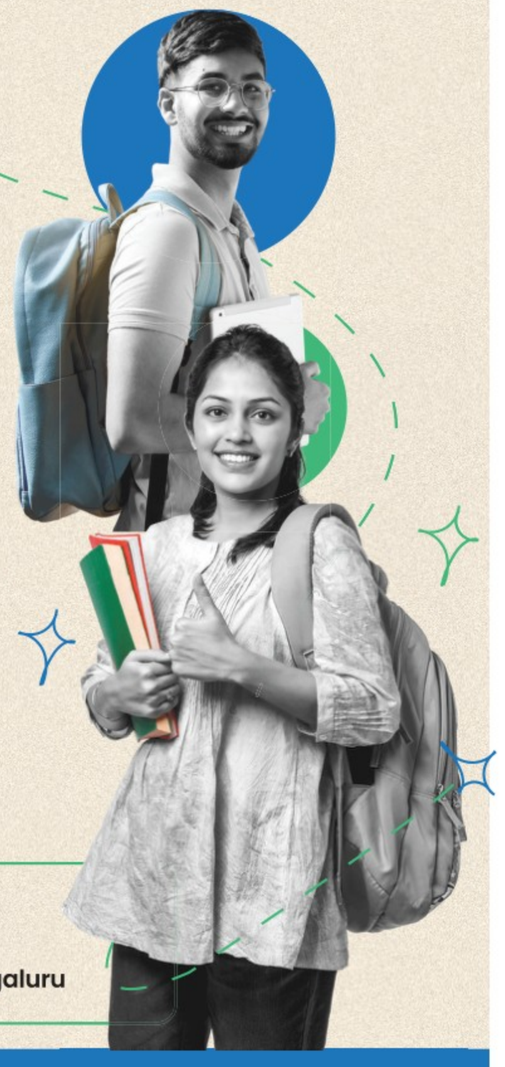
The Hindu **Education Plus Career Counselling Fair 2026** in Karnataka.

Secure your spot today and discover the cities brightest minds!



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Karnataka

April 25 - May 16, 2026 | 10 AM onward
Bengaluru, Bidar, Davangere, Kalaburagi, Mysuru, Vijayapura, Tumakuru, Hubballi & Mangaluru

For sponsorship enquiries, contact:
Bengaluru **97421 77743** | Mangaluru **94481 60126**
Mysuru **94488 71815** | North Karnataka **97314 00992**

INBRIEF

Patankar becomes India's oldest living Test cricketer

Following the passing of C.D. Gopinath in Chennai on Thursday, wicketkeeper-batter Chandrakant Patankar, aged 95 years and 136 days, has become India's oldest and and the world's second-oldest living Test cricketer after Australia's Neil Harvey. 'Chandu' Patankar, born on November 24, 1930, in Pen, Maharashtra, played one Test against New Zealand at Eden Gardens in December 1955, scoring 13 and 1 not out. He also took three catches and effected one stumping.

Brazil's Cardoso scripts T20I history with nine-wicket haul

Brazil fast bowler Laura Cardoso became the first player in either men's or women's T20I cricket to claim nine wickets in a single innings. Cardoso delivered the sensational spell against Lesotho, finishing with extraordinary figures of nine for four from her three overs, the best-ever bowling figures in T20I cricket, at the BCA Kalahari Women's T20I Tournament at Botswana Cricket Association Oval 2 in Gaborone. The previous record was held by Bhutan's Sonam Yeshey, who claimed eight wickets for just seven runs against Myanmar in a men's T20I in 2025. In women's T20Is, Cardoso surpassed Indonesia's Rohmalia Rohmalia's figures of 7/0 against Mongolia in 2024, according to the ICC.

Sakshi excels as BCYA beats Vijayapura District

Sakshi scored 21 points as BCYA beat Vijayapura District 55-42 in the State women's league basketball championship in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Luke and Rivaldo score two each

Luke Anthony and J.C. Rivaldo scored a brace each as R.R. Nagar beat C.V. Raman Nagar 4-2 to enter the semifinals of the KSFA-Vaishnavi Chief Minister Cup football tournament on Thursday.

The results: Quarterfinals: R.R. Nagar 4 (Luke Anthony 8, 11, J.C. Rivaldo 63, 86) bt C.V. Raman Nagar 2 (Khaleel-Ur-Rehman 39, Uttam Prashanth 99+5); K.R. Pura 2 (Steve Mathews 56, Tejas 87) bt Hebbal 0.

Big win for Kemp Juniors

Kemp Juniors FC thrashed GRK Girls FC 13-0 in the KSFA A-division women's football league on Thursday.

Other results: A-div.: Young Blues Elite bt Reds United 3-0. **B-div.:** Real Bengaluru bt Prakrida 7-0; Kickstart bt BLFA 2-0.

Atletico punishes 10-man Barcelona for first win at Camp Nou since 2006

Dominant Paris Saint-Germain runs Liverpool ragged leaving the Reds facing a monumental task in a week's time

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Julian Alvarez and Alexander Sorloth's goals earned Atletico Madrid a commanding 2-0 lead over 10-man Barcelona in a tense Champions League quarterfinal first leg clash on Wednesday.

The La Liga leader was on top in the all-Spanish tie at Camp Nou before Pau Cubarsi was sent off for bringing down Atletico's Giuliano Simeone, who was through on goal.

Alvarez whipped home the resulting free-kick and Sorloth doubled the advantage with 20 minutes remaining to give Atletico a strong chance of reaching the semifinals.

Diego Simeone's side, which has never won the competition, reached the 2014 and 2016 finals but was beaten by Real Madrid on both occasions.

Barca, semifinalists last season, needs to make a huge comeback next Tuesday in Madrid if it is to stand a chance of lifting the trophy it last won in 2015.

Sublime free-kick: Alvarez, right, bends the ball past Barcelona's wall for Atletico's opener. AP

It was against the run of play again that Atletico snatched its second.

Griezmann and Matteo Ruggieri combined and the latter crossed for target man Sorloth, who outmuscled Gerard Martin and fired past the helpless Garcia.

Barca tasted defeat at home for the first time since Camp Nou reopened in November 2025 – and Atletico coach Simeone won at the stadium for the first time in his 14-year career at the helm of the Rojiblancos.

It was Atletico's first win at Camp Nou since 2006 and a potential stepping stone towards the trophy it craves most.

In Paris, Desire Doue and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia scored to give a dominant Paris Saint-Germain a 2-0 win over Liverpool, as the holder seized a clear advantage to take to Anfield for next week's return.

Big touch

Doue's shot in the 11th minute looped over goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili and in thanks to a big touch off Ryan Gravenberch, and Kvaratskhelia then rounded his compatriot to double PSG's lead 65 minutes into a game it bossed from start to finish.

It only remains to be seen whether the reigning European champion – which had a second-half penalty in its favour overturned after a VAR review – might regret not scoring more goals against a Liverpool side which lined up with three centre-backs, an extreme rarity for it under Arne Slot, and was run ragged.

The results (quarterfinal, first leg): Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Doue 11, Kvaratskhelia 65) bt Liverpool 0; Barcelona 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Alvarez 45, Sorloth 70).

Ayush enters the quarterfinals; Sindhu and Prannoy bow out

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
NINGBO (CHINA)

Ayush Shetty entered the men's singles quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Championships with an impressive straight-game win but P.V. Sindhu was eliminated from the women's event here on Thursday.

World number 25 Ayush, who is also the reigning US Open Super 300 champion, registered a 21-16, 21-12 victory over his world number 20 rival, Taiwan's Chi Yu Jen, in a commanding display. He will next face third seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia.

However, it was a disappointing day for the rest of the Indian contingent.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu went down 18-21, 8-21 to second seed Wang Zhiyi of China in a 46-minute last-16 stage match.

Impressive: Ayush progressed with a comfortable win over Chi Yu Jen. BWFBADMINTON.COM

H.S. Prannoy, returning after a shoulder injury, fought hard but lost 12-21, 19-21 to China's Weng Hong Yang.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto bowed out after a 13-21, 14-21 defeat to fourth-seeded Malaysians Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei.

Ayush relied on his height to unleash steep smashes and maintained tight control at the net to dominate proceedings.

The opening game was closely fought early on, with the scores level at 4-4 before Chi moved ahead 10-6.

Ayush clawed his way back after the break, drawing level at 12-12 and then taking control as Chi struggled with his length, committing a series of unforced errors.

The Indian surged to 18-14 and closed out the game comfortably.

In the second game, Ayush raced to a 4-0 lead before Chi briefly caught up.

Regaining rhythm, the Indian led 11-7 at the interval and never looked back, using aggressive returns and sharp net play to move to 16-9.

He soon wrapped up the match, sealing it with a sharp backhand at the net.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Ayush Shetty bt Chi Yu Jen (Tpe) 21-16, 21-12; Weng Hong Yang (Chn) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-12, 21-19. **Women:** Wang Zhiyi (Chn) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-18, 21-8. **Mixed doubles:** Chen Tang Jie & Toh Ee Wei (Mas) bt Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto 13-21, 14-21.

Indian compound women's team in final

Sports Bureau

The Indian compound women's team – Pragati, V. Jyothi Surekha, Madhura Dhamangaonkar – reached the final to assure the country of a medal in the Archery World Cup Stage-1 in Puebla, Mexico.

The top-ranked Indian side got a bye and beat Denmark 235-234 and Turkey 233-230 to set up a summit clash with USA.

The results: Recurve: Qualification round: Individual: Men: B. Dhiraj (10, 664), Tarundeep Rai (35, 650), Yashdeep Bhoge (55, 633), Atanu Das (60, 630). **Women:** Kumkum Mohod (10, 647), Deepika Kumari (24, 630), Simranjeet Kaur (29, 624), Ankita Bhakat (33, 622). **Team: India:** Men (10, 1947), Women (seventh, 1901), Mixed (seventh, 1311). **Compound: Team: Men:** India (Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma, Sahil Jadhav) got a bye (first round), lost to Mexico 232-234 (quarterfinal). **Women:** India (Pragati, V. Jyothi Surekha, Madhura Dhamangaonkar) got a bye (first round), bt Denmark 235-234 (quarterfinal), bt Turkey 233-230 (semifinal).

LIVE TELECAST

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Golf: Augusta Masters, FanCode, 10.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: DAZN, 12.15 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Indian women shine with four golds at Asian boxing

Sports Bureau

Four Indian women boxers, Minakshi Hooda, Preeti, Priya and Arundhati Choudhary, clinched gold medals at the Asian boxing championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Thursday.

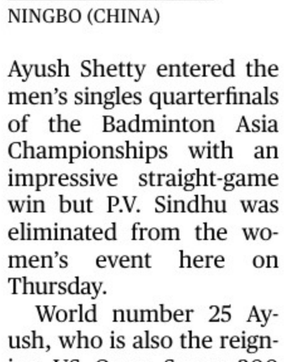
World champion Minakshi asserted her supremacy by securing a convincing 5-0 win over home favourite Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan in the 48kg final.

Giant-killer Preeti, who had toppled Paris Olympics bronze medallist Im Aeji in the semifinals, upset Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist and current World champion Hsiao-Wen Huang 5-0 for the 54kg title.

Young Priya capped her fine show by recording a 3-0 win over North Korea's Un Gyong Won in a closely-contested 60kg summit clash.

Arundhati earned India's fourth gold by posting a 4-1 victory over Kazakhstan's Bakyt Seidish in the 70kg final.

Arundhati (70kg). ASIANBOXING.ORG



Priya (60kg). ASIANBOXING.ORG

World champion Jaismine Lamboria lost to three-time Worlds medallist and former Asian champion Punrawee Ruenros of Thailand 0-5 to settle for the silver medal in the 57kg weight class.

A direct entrant to the final, Alfiya Pathan (80+kg) also lost her bout.

Indian women finished atop the chart with four gold, two silver and four bronze.

The results (finals): Women: 48kg: Minakshi Hooda bt Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan (Mgl) 5-0; **54kg:** Preeti Pawar bt Hsiao-Wen Huang (Tpe) 5-0. **57kg:** Punrawee Ruenros (Tha) bt Jaismine Lamboria 5-0; **60kg:** Priya bt Un Gyong Won (PRK) 3-0. **70kg:** Arundhati Choudhary bt Bakyt Seidish (Kaz) 4-1; **80+kg:** Dina Islambekova (Kaz) bt Alfiya Pathan 5-0.

U-19 girls cap India's dominant team show in Asian table tennis

Press Trust of India
SHIMLA

India's under-19 girls extended their unbeaten run with a series of commanding performances in the regional qualifiers for the ITTF-ATTU Asian Youth table tennis championships here on Thursday.

With Thursday's results after the completion of team events, India claimed three of the four team titles – under-19 girls, under-15 boys, and under-15 girls – underlining the country's strength and depth at the junior level.

The only title to elude the hosts came in the under-19 boys category, where Bangladesh finished on top.

India did not field a team in this section, having already secured qualification during last year's Asian Championships in Tashkent.

Clinical wins

The hosts registered clinical 3-0 victories over Nepal, Maldives, and Bangladesh on Thursday, finishing comfortably at the top of the round-robin standings.

On Wednesday, the hosts beat Sri Lanka by a similar margin.

With four wins from as many ties, India not only retained the gold medal but also qualified as the top-ranked team for the continental championships.

Sri Lanka finished second and claimed the other qualification spot from the region.

The singles and doubles events across the sections begin on Friday.

Divya's fourth, Gajanan's fighting fifth on debut cap India's day

SHOOTING

Press Trust of India
GRANADA

Divya T.S.'s creditable fourth place finish in the women's 25m pistol and Gajanan Khandagale's fighting fifth in the men's 10m air rifle on international debut were the highlights of India's day at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol here on Thursday.

Divya shot 28 in her third individual World Cup final to finish just outside the medals. Rhythm Sangwan finished seventh.

China's Xiao Jiaruixuan won gold after two rounds of shoot-offs were needed to separate her from her compatriot Kong Jieru. Camille Jedrzejewski edged out Divya for bronze and finished with 34 hits.

Rhythm was the stronger of the two Indians in qualifying, shooting 586 for a fifth-place finish.

Divya shot 585 to take the seventh qualifying spot. World Cup Finals winner Simranpreet Kaur Brar finished 30th with a 575. Gajanan bowed out with an effort of 187.5 in the men's 10m air rifle final after storming into it in second place with 634.3 in qualification.

Arshdeep Singh was 21st with 629.5 while Dhanush Srikanth was 23rd with 629.2.

All three Indians navigated the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) elimination relays safely as well, with Olympian and world championship medallist Anjum Moudgil best with a 592.

Ayushi Podder shot 587 in the second relay and Surabhi Bharadwaj Rapole shot 582 as 58 of the 75 made it to the main qualification round.

Indian women confirm three medals

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau

Indian women confirmed three medals at the Asian wrestling championships in Bishkek on Thursday.

Meenakshi (53kg) booked a place in the final, while Hansika Lamba (55kg) and Neha Sangwan (59kg) recorded come-from-behind wins to claim a bronze apiece.

Meenakshi got past Uzbekistan's Sakibjamal Esbosynova 15-4 and Korea's Seoyoung Park 4-2 to reach the final. She will take on former Worlds silver medallist Jin Zhang of China in the gold medal contest.

The 19-year-old Hansika beat Kyrgyzstan's Aruuke Kadyrbek Kyzy 6-1, while Neha defeated Bolortuya Khurelkhuu of Mongolia 10-4.

Harshita (72kg) also made it to the bronze medal match.